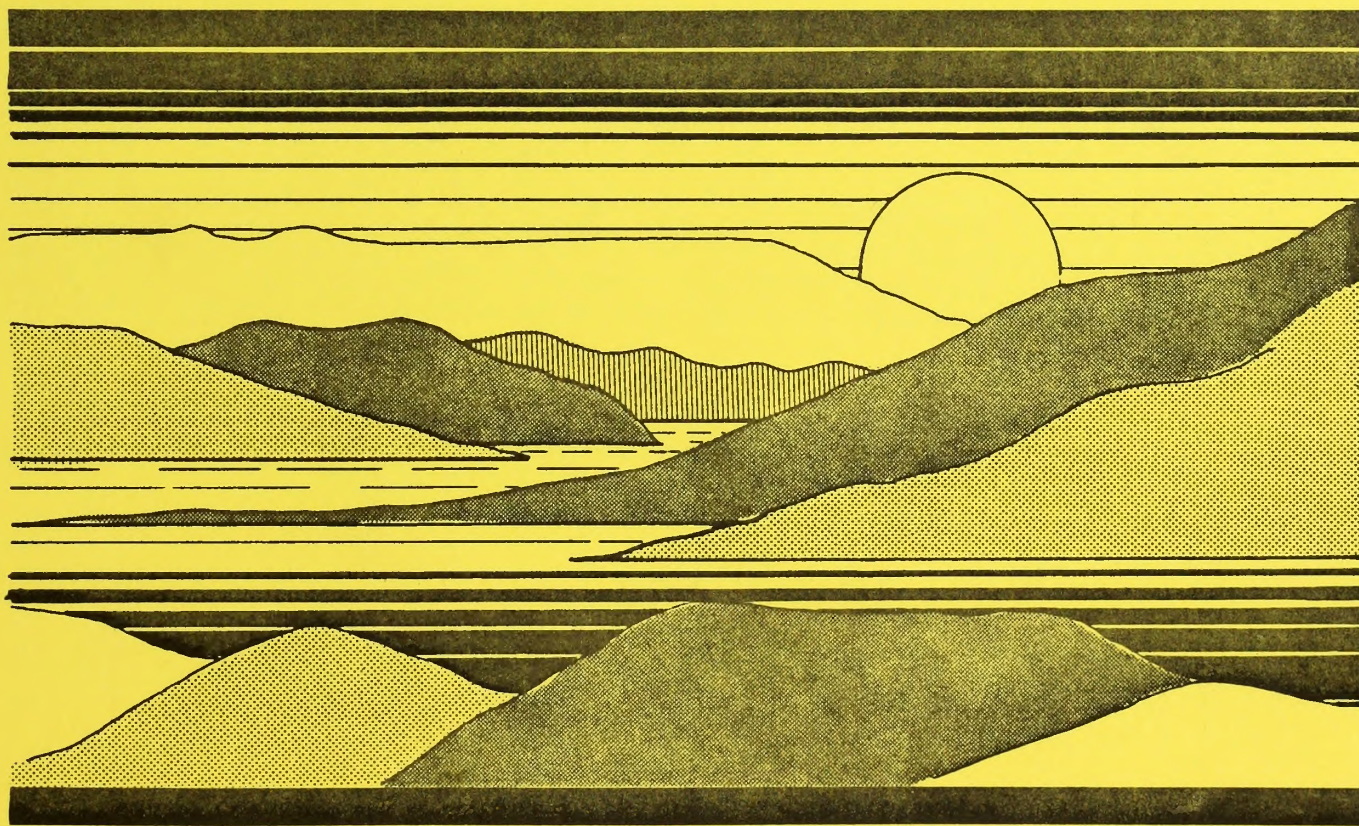




88008495

# **SOUTH SIERRA FOOTHILLS PLANNING AREA**

## **Public Summary / Rangeland Program Summary**



**SEPTEMBER 1984**



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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IN REPLY  
REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
800 Truxtun Avenue, Room 311  
Bakersfield, California 93301  
Phone: (805) 861-4191

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Weekdays

1608  
C-016.14

Dear Reader:

This document contains the Management Framework Plan (MFP) land use decisions which will guide future management actions for public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the South Sierra Foothills Planning Area of the Caliente Resource Area. Decisions presented in this document are the culmination of several years of intensive resource inventory, evaluation, planning and EIS efforts.

The grazing decisions covered in the land use plan include forage allocation and season of use by allotment for livestock. These grazing decisions, including forage utilization standards and proposed grazing systems, are described in the Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) attached as an appendix to this document.

The management decisions in the South Sierra Foothills land use plan are now in effect. The plan will be monitored on a regular basis to assess its effectiveness and continued applicability. Any amendment to the plan that may occur will be based on the information obtained from monitoring the plan. You will be given many opportunities for participation in any significant amendment.

We hope you will keep abreast of the Bureau's management program and will continue to actively participate in subsequent planning efforts.

Sincerely,

*Rory E. Raschen, Assoc. D.M.*  
for Robert D. Rheiner, Jr.  
Bakersfield District Manager

United States Department of the Interior

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D. C.  
February 1, 1901

Mr. J. M. Smith, Secretary of the Interior



Dear Sir:

Very respectfully,

The enclosed report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, dated January 25, 1901, contains a statement of the progress of the work of the Department during the past year. It also contains a statement of the work of the Department during the past year. It also contains a statement of the work of the Department during the past year.

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Very respectfully,

John D. Smith, Secretary of the Interior



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SOUTH SIERRA FOOTHILLS  
MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN

STEP-3

BAKERSFIELD DISTRICT  
CALIENTE RESOURCE AREA

Robert W. Kleimer, Jr.  
District Manager

9/22/83  
Date

(Review/Concurrence)

Ed Hartley  
State Director

8/5/84  
Date

ADOPTED

PER  
District Manager  
Initials

8/30/84  
Date

Bureau of Land Management  
Library  
Bldg. 50, Denver Federal Center  
Denver, CO 80225





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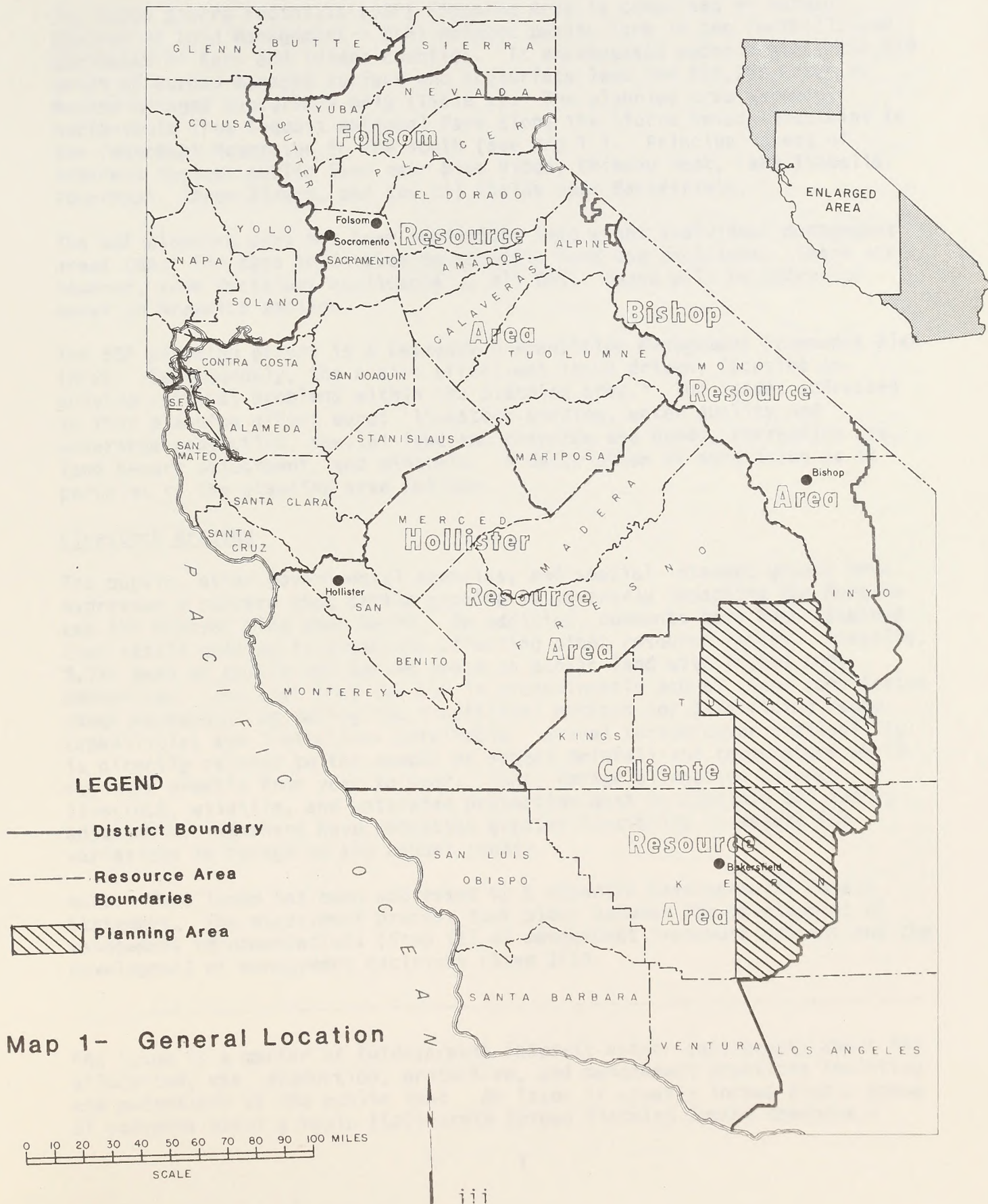
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# South Sierra Foothills Planning Area

## Caliente Resource Area

### Bakersfield District







## INTRODUCTION

The South Sierra Foothills (SSF) Planning Area is comprised of Bureau (Bureau of Land Management - BLM) managed public land in the foothills and mountains of Kern and Tulare counties. It encompasses approximately 237,640 acres of Bureau managed surface and subsurface land and 224,200 acres of Bureau managed subsurface only (Table 1). The planning area extends north-south from Sequoia National Park along the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the Tehachapi Mountains in the south (see Map 1 ). Principal areas of interest include public land near Blue Ridge, Chimney Peak, Lake Isabella, Tehachapi, Three Rivers, and the oil fields near Bakersfield.

The SSF planning area has been subdivided into eight individual management areas (MAs) for ease in developing specific land use decisions. There are, however, some decisions applicable to all MAs. Those will be addressed under an Areawide section.

The SSF planning effort is a Category D Transition Management Framework Plan (MFP). Consequently, the entire effort was issue driven, focusing on solving critical problems within the planning area.\* The issues addressed in this planning effort were: livestock grazing, water quality and watershed protection, special land and resource use needs, recreation use, land tenure adjustment, and minerals. A description of each issue as it pertains to the planning area follows.

### Livestock Grazing

The public, other governmental agencies, and special interest groups have expressed a concern that cattle grazing is adversely impacting the Monache and the Mineral King deer herds. In addition, comments have been received that cattle grazing is adversely affecting other resource values. Annually, 3,724 head of cattle and horses graze on public land with 14,299 AUMs authorized. The fact that the SSF is predominantly annual range complicates range management by making the traditional methods for determining range capabilities and limitations unreliable. Annual forage/cover availability is directly related to the amount of annual rainfall and temperature which may vary greatly from year to year. Thus, forage allocation between livestock, wildlife, and watershed protection must be flexible and easily adjustable. Ranchers have requested greater flexibility to adjust for variations in forage on the annual ranges.

Note: This issue has been addressed by a separate Environmental Impact Statement. The assessment process took place between the development of management recommendations (Step II) of management framework process and the development of management decisions (Step III).

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\*An issue is a matter of (widespread) interest and/or controversy about the allocation, use, production, protection, and management practices (existing and potential) of the public land. An issue is usually formed from a group of concerns about a topic (California Bureau Planning System Handbook -



## Water Quality and Watershed Protection

Studies indicate that vegetative removal by a variety of resource uses e.g., grazing, vegetative manipulation, mining activities, road construction, recreational activity, etc., is contributing to water quality and watershed degradation. Sedimentation and non-point source pollution have been identified as significant problems by Corps of Engineers, county, government, and residents. This degradation affects the quality of the fisheries and aquatic habitats.

## Special Land and Resource Use Needs

There is a high level of demand for community facilities and expansion in the Kern River Valley. As private land is developed, greater pressures are exerted on public land for support facilities and recreational opportunities. Other special needs and management concerns include but are not limited to: controlling forest pests and disease which are infecting trees in the planning area, Christmas tree cutting, fuelwood collecting and cutting, both solid and septic waste disposal sites, mineral material disposal (sale) as identified by the public through the county's general plan, public safety, and unauthorized use of the public resources. Additional infrastructure developments, such as: powerline rights-of-way, cemetery expansion, parks and public buildings, and building material sources may be needed as the community expands.

The Chimney Peak area is predominantly a pinyon forest and each year requests are made for a commercial harvest of pinyon nuts. In addition, there is considerable noncommercial collecting by Native Americans and other local residents.

As the demand for energy has increased, the demand for energy related facilities has increased. These needs must be met wherever possible.

Blue Ridge has been designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as critical habitat for the California condor and recognized through prior planning as an area requiring special management.

---

1982). Therefore, the issue (topic) may incorporate more than one resource as it relates to that issue or a specific resource may be incorporated into more than one issue. For example: 1) the livestock grazing issue includes cultural resources, hydrology, recreation, soils, vegetation, wildlife (to include fisheries and Rare, Threatened, and Endangered (RTE) Species - plants and animals), etc., and 2) the wildlife resource may be referred to in all issues:

- Livestock Grazing - deer, forage/cover/water needs, etc.

- Water Quality and Watershed Protection - aquatic fauna, fisheries, riparian habitat, water needs, etc.

- Special Land and Resource Use Needs - California condor, National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Areas, wood duck nesting, etc.

- Recreation Use - fishing, hunting, etc.

- Land Tenure Adjustment - habitat needs, RTE species, etc.

- Minerals - habitat needs, RTE species, etc.



Portions of three MAs require joint management with the California Department of Fish and Game as a result of Public Land Order 2594 (National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Areas).

#### Recreation Use

The North Fork area and Isabella areas offer unique opportunities for the development of coordinated recreational programs with the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, and Corps of Engineers to prevent duplication of effort and unwarranted expenditure of tax dollars. Recreational utilization is causing conflicts with other resources e.g., cultural resources protection, water quality control, livestock control, and wildlife water needs. The level of use of public land is placing increasing demands for visitor services and facilities. The entire recreation program must be evaluated to ensure that it responds to the needs of the public and is consistent with state, county, local, and other federal agency plans and commitments.

Note: Wilderness review, as it pertains to the designated Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) within the planning area, has been or will be (for those WSAs with the U.S. Forest Service as the lead reviewing agency) addressed under separate Environmental Impact Statements. Wilderness designation for WSAs CA-010-026 and 027 has been recommended. The final decision will be made by the U.S. Congress.

#### Land Tenure Adjustment

There is significant public demand in the planning area for purchase, acquisition through exchange, or use through leasing of public land. Areas having potential for these or other actions allowed in Section 302 of Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) must be identified. Both sales and exchanges could be used to eliminate scattered public land patterns and improve the effectiveness of their administration.

#### Minerals

Public demand for salable minerals e.g., sand and gravel; locatable minerals e.g., uranium, gypsum, and diatomaceous earth; as well as leasable minerals e.g., oil and gas which includes geophysical exploration and geothermal, is great. Numerous conflicts i.e., cultural, wildlife, federal and state listed rare, threatened, or endangered species, arise from the sometimes total commitment to the mineral resource.

TABLE 1: LAND STATUS SUMMARY

<u>Management Area</u>	<u>Surface/ Subsurface</u>	<u>Surface Only</u>	<u>Subsurface Only</u>	<u>Private</u>
Blue Ridge	3,820	0	4,460	49,320
Case Mountain/ Milk Ranch Peak	18,370	120	8,110	23,960
Chimney Peak	99,590	400	15,410	17,400
Isabella	44,950	1,980	32,360	46,150
Kelso Creek	22,720	0	3,970	9,790
North Fork	10,870	0	6,940	71,490
Tehachapi	33,680	80	87,050 480 (oil & gas only)	663,910
Tule River/ Round Mountain	3,640	0	62,280 (all minerals) 2,000 (oil & gas only)	291,120
Total	237,640	2,580	223,060	1,173,140



SOUTH SIERRA FOOTHILLS STATISTICS SHEET (August, 1983)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Miles</u>
A. Livestock Grazing	Grazing Leases		198,830	
	Total Livestock Preference AUMs	14,299		
	Total Deer AUMs <sup>1</sup>	6,837		
	Deer Population <sup>2</sup>	4,350		
	Grazing Allotments	49		
	Improve	9	137,460	
	Maintain	26	28,770	
	Custodial	14	32,600	
	Vegetation Manipulation			
	Existing		2,200	
	Proposed		6,560	
	Range Improvements			
	Existing	2		26
	Cattleguards			
	Fences			
	Reservoirs	7		
	Spring Developments	12		
B. Water Quality and Watershed Protection	Proposed			
	Cattleguards	5		14
	Fences			
	Spring Developments	26		
	Ungulate Guzzlers	13		
	Allotment Management Plans			
	Existing	2		
	Proposed	7		
	Perennial Streams			
	Rehabilitation Needs		1,340	12
C. Special Land and Resource Use Needs				
	1. Cultural			
	Sites Listed in National Register of Historic Places	1		
	2. Fire			
	Wildfires <sup>3</sup>	87		
	Approved Burn Plans <sup>3</sup>	11		
	Prescribed Burns		390	

SOUTH SIERRA FOOTHILLS STATISTICS SHEET (August, 1983)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Miles</u>
3. Forestry	Commercial Forest*			
	Volume (commercial)*	10(MMBF)	2,220	
	Christmas Tree Harvest	400		
	Christmas Tree Cutting Area*		800	
	Pinyon Pine Nuts Harvest			
4. Realty	Commercial	6,824 (lbs)		
	Noncommercial <sup>4</sup>	1,000 (lbs)		
	Apiary			
	Sites	23		
	Permits	10		
5. Wildlife	Communication Sites	4		
	National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Area*	3	140,000	
	Occupancy Leases	23		
	R&PPs on File	22		
	Trespass (documented)	4		
6. Other	Candidate Plant Species	11		
	Rare, Threatened or Endangered Species Improvements	1		
	Area of Critical Environmental Concern - Proposed Cooperative Agreements	6	3,300	
	Existing	1		
	Proposed	2		
D. Recreation Use	Supplemental Agreements	1		
	Known Deaths			
	Natural Area - Piute Cypress		760	
	Roads Maintained			62
	Campgrounds	3		
	Campsites	62		
	ORV Closure*		3,590	3
	Permits <sup>5</sup>	5		
	Trails			35
	Special Recreation Management Areas	5		



SOUTH SIERRA FOOTHILLS STATISTICS SHEET (August, 1983)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Miles</u>
D. Recreation Use (cont'd)	Visitor Use <sup>5*</sup>	15,135		
	Visual Resource Management			
	Class II		25,300	
	Class III		69,600	
	Wilderness Study Areas			
	Existing		76,820	
	Released <sup>6</sup>		20,280	
E. Minerals	Geothermal Notices	1		
	Hazardous Area		2,000	
	Material Sites	4		
	Mineral Material	5,550 (cu. yds.)		
	Mineral Withdrawal			
	Proposed*		3,700	
	Mining Districts <sup>7</sup>	15		
	Mining Notices and Plans <sup>5</sup>	13		
	Oil and Gas Leases	106	18,760	

\* \* \* \* \*

- \* Estimate
- 1 Surveyed Grazing Allotments Only
- 2 Estimated Winter Population
- 3 FY 82 and 83
- 4 Annual
- 5 FY 83
- 6 Secretary's Order - December 30, 1982
- 7 Within Planning Area Boundary

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

During the planning effort, the following goals were established by issue for the planning area based on the resource values present, resource use patterns, public input, and recommendations from other agencies and local governments:

1. Livestock Grazing
  - Allocate forage/cover for livestock and wildlife to attain optimum production levels within constraints of sound economics while minimizing impacts to water quality, watershed, and aesthetic values.
2. Water Quality and Watershed Protection
  - a. Manage resource utilization activities to levels approaching public demands and avoid critical watershed areas to minimize watershed deterioration.
  - b. Plan for controlled burns to reduce potential combustible fuel levels to prevent uncontrolled wildfires resulting in watershed degradation.
  - c. Maintain a viable fisheries population and minimize impacts to aquatic flora and fauna.
3. Special Land and Resource Use Needs
  - a. Respond to local government infrastructural requests for public land and resources for community expansion needs. Due consideration will be given to environmental and resource values of public land.
  - b. Respond to noncommercial requests for vegetative and mineral materials from Native Americans and other local residents.
  - c. Annually determine commercial vegetative and mineral material sales potential.
  - d. Manage fuels to protect and enhance resource values, improve public safety, respond to public demands, and reduce wildfire suppression costs.



#### 4. Recreation Use

Provide for the recreational needs of the public through the use of public land while protecting the land's environmental quality and taking due consideration of the needs and rights of adjacent landowners.

#### 5. Land Tenure Adjustment

- a. Eliminate, wherever possible, the scattered land patterns common to public land and thereby facilitate more effective public land administration and management. This may be accomplished by various methods including but not limited to exchange, lease, purchase, and sale.
- b. Provide for, where applicable, the lease of public land for use, occupancy, and development for habitation, cultivation and development of small trade or manufacturing concerns.

#### 6. Minerals

The public land forms a potentially important mineral resource. Economically and environmentally sound exploration and development will be encouraged as a means of contributing to the Nation's need for domestic mineral resources.

## AREAWIDE

### I. LAND USE DECISIONS

Specific legislation, policies, regulations, and instructions have been identified by issue in this section only to highlight these as some of the Area's most frequently used. However, federal legislation, policies, regulations, and instructions continue to direct all land use decisions.

#### Livestock Grazing

See Appendix - Rangeland Program Summary for specific information regarding the range management program and a summation of management decisions in regards to livestock grazing.

As directed by Instruction Memoranda 82-650 and CA-83-382, range preference adjustments may be implemented in a number of ways to include: 1) a five-year phased in suspension based on monitoring or a combination of monitoring and range surveys; 2) requesting the permittee/lessee to agree to a voluntary reduction; or 3) an agreement with the operator whereby he/she voluntarily applies for a certain amount of nonuse in each grazing season until the carrying capacity of the allotment can be accurately gauged as a result of monitoring.

#### Water Quality and Watershed Protection

Bureau management activities must comply with the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 (Public Law 92-500) and the Clean Water Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-217). Pursuant to Section 208 of the Clean Water Act, the Bureau developed a Water Quality Management Plan which identifies existing water quality problems and methods of abating them within the planning process. The BLM is also obligated, through Executive Order 12088 to comply with water quality standards and objectives developed in the Water Quality Plan Reports of the Regional Water Quality Control Boards.

As stated in Executive Order 11990, the Bureau will recognize and declare the critical importance of wetland and riparian habitats to wildlife.

#### Decision:

- Manage the planning area to prevent serious impacts to fisheries and to protect the aquatic flora and fauna on public land.

#### Special Land and Resource Use Needs

##### Animal Damage Control (ADC)

- ADC will be restricted to those grazing allotments where damage is occurring. ADC plans will be reviewed annually for applicability. No planning areawide ADC plans will be approved since past history does not identify widespread need for ADC.

##### Apiary

- Continue to manage the planning area to maximize the use of the public land by the apiary industry within environmental constraints. Ensure that fees charged are comparable to those established on private land.



### Illegal Agricultural Cultivation

- Illegal marijuana cultivation has increasingly become a problem on public land. Not only is it illegal, but poses a safety hazard to any public (to include employees of the Bureau) who may come across a plantation while utilizing the public land.

### Decision:

- Manage the planning area for public enjoyment and safety by working cooperatively with other land management and law enforcement agencies to prevent the cultivation of marijuana on the public land.

### Safety

- Manage the public land to provide for the safety of the user and the protection and enhancement of the resource values.

### Unauthorized Use of Public Resources

#### Policy Statement:

The legitimate uses of the public land as provided for in FLPMA are hampered in many ways by unauthorized use (acts), both the unintentional or inadvertent violation of law or regulations and the intentional or willful violation of law or regulations. Both of these unauthorized uses interfere with the legitimate use and value of the public land. Such activities as removing or stealing resources, marring scenic values, defacing historical and cultural sites, and interfering with access affect all legitimate users, including those seeking various forms of outdoor recreation and appreciation and those interested in lawful use of public land resources for such economic purposes as livestock production, mining, rights-of-way, and timber harvest.

The cost of unauthorized use to the U.S. taxpayers increases by millions of dollars each year. These costs include the loss of rental fees, sales revenues, and resource damage from misuse, abuse, fire, theft, and vandalism. The number and scope of these acts, in the absence of an effective prevention and abatement program, may be expected to increase as demands for domestic sources of energy, minerals, food, fiber, and recreation increase. In addition, the importance of unauthorized use increases as public land managers attempt to balance increasing demands for legitimate uses against limited available resources.

It is the general policy of the BLM to facilitate and secure lawful use of public land resources in accordance with applicable law. To control unauthorized use, the Bureau will rely primarily on informing both the general public and specific public land users about which uses are unrestricted and which are prohibited or subject to regulation.

The Bureau will consult with specific users and user interests to seek their understanding and support for its efforts to prevent and abate unauthorized use.



At the same time, the Bureau will intensify its actions to prevent and abate violations. In order to protect limited resources in most timely and cost-effective manner, the Bureau will emphasize prevention. When violations do occur, the Bureau will move quickly to document and resolve them using the appropriate administrative, civil, or criminal proceedings.

The Bureau will first seek to negotiate solutions to resolve unintentional violations, but, in the event such negotiations fail, will persist in those actions necessary to protect the public interest. In cases of willful violations of law and/or regulations, the Bureau will act forthrightly to stop the violation and to seek damages and/ or other appropriate penalties through applicable regulations or statutes.

Decision:

- Manage the planning area in accordance with the above policy to ensure the public land is managed on the basis of multiple use and sustained yield as directed by FLPMA.

Recreation Use

- Manage the planning area to optimize the recreational experience under the limits of protection and minimization of conflicts with other resource values (e.g., wildlife, cultural, and watershed).
- All parcels are designated available for limited off-road vehicle use (roads and trails only) unless designated otherwise in the individual management areas decisions.
- Camping is limited to 14 days per month for all parcels.
- Manage those portions of the planning area designated Wilderness Study Areas in accordance with the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review.
- Some portions of the planning area were released from further wilderness study as a result of implementation of the Secretary's Order - December 30, 1982. However, as a result of court proceedings (Sierra Club, et al. vs. Watt, et al. - No. CIVIL S-83-035 RAR) these areas will be managed according to WO Instruction Memorandum No. 83-613 until such time as a final ruling is made.

Inventory and evaluation of the released WSAs (identified individually in the Management Area descriptions) per Sec. 202, FLPMA and recognition of the area's multiple use values (eg. forest products, public infrastructural needs, ecological requirement to reintroduce fire to the ecosystem to protect the redwood groves, need to improve water quality and watershed conditions through intensive management, etc.) show there are long-term public values which will be foregone if wilderness is established.

Decision:

- The released WSAs contain values and resources which will be best realized through non-wilderness management. Therefore, they should not be designated wilderness.



## Land Tenure Adjustment

According to Sec. 203 of FLPMA the following criteria for disposal apply to all parcels of public land:

1. such tract because of its location or other characteristics is difficult and uneconomic to manage as part of the public lands, and is not suitable for management by another Federal department or agency;
2. such tract was acquired for a specific purpose and the tract is no longer required for that or any other Federal purpose;
3. disposal of such tract will serve important public objectives, including but not limited to, expansion of communities and economic development, which cannot be achieved prudently or feasibly on land other than public land and which outweigh other public objectives and values, including, but not limited to, recreation and scenic values, which would be served by maintaining such tract in Federal ownership.

All parcels of public land were reviewed and evaluated under the above criteria to determine potential for land tenure adjustment. Those parcels which met these basic criteria are listed in each management area. They were screened for potential land use conflicts according to existing Bureau direction and were evaluated only for consideration for land tenure adjustment. The parcels must undergo environmental analysis to determine other significant resource values before land tenure adjustment actions will be initiated. As conditions change in the future, it is recognized that other parcels may be considered if they meet the basic criteria and supplemental Bureau guidance.

The Management Framework Plan will replace the multiple-use classification (C&MU) covering public land in the planning area. A full range of land uses will be considered/evaluated on a case-by-case basis within the constraints of the plan.

Leasing of land for agriculture or other purposes will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and any lease granted will include rental fees based on the fair market value of the land (and crops). The following criteria will be used in determining whether available land is suitable or unsuitable for agricultural development:

1. any 40-acre parcel that contains a majority (75-100 percent) of Class VI soils would be classified unsuitable;
2. any parcel containing cultural or historic values would be classified unsuitable;
3. any parcel which is sensitive, rare, threatened, or endangered species habitat would be classified as unsuitable;
4. any parcel identified for community needs such as landfills, gravel pits, etc., would be classified unsuitable;
5. any parcel determined valuable for wildlife would be classified unsuitable;



6. no parcel will be disposed of if such disposition will significantly constrain proper administration of adjacent public land or reserved minerals.

## Minerals

### Policy Statement:

This statement sets forth BLM policy for management of mineral and energy resources on public lands. It reflects the provisions of three important acts of Congress: the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, and the National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980. This policy statement represents a commitment by BLM to implement the policies of these statutes consistent with BLM's other statutory obligations.

The Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970 declares that it is the continuing policy of the Federal Government to foster and encourage private enterprise in the development of a stable domestic minerals industry and the orderly and economic development of domestic mineral resources.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 reiterates that the 1970 Mining and Minerals Policy Act be implemented and directs that public lands be managed in a manner which recognizes the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals and other resources. FLPMA also provides for improved inventory, planning, and decision processes.

The 1980 National Materials Policy, Research and Development Act restates the need to implement the 1970 act and requires the Secretary of the Interior to improve the quality of minerals data in Federal land use decisionmaking. In April 1982, the President delivered to Congress the first annual report required by the 1980 act, which provided specific guidance to implement these acts.

The BLM recognizes that public lands are an important source of the Nation's mineral and energy resources, some of which are critical and strategic. BLM is responsible for making public lands available for orderly and efficient development of these resources under principles of balanced multiple use management.

The following principles will guide BLM in managing mineral resources on public lands:

1. Except for Congressional withdrawals, public lands shall remain open and available for mineral exploration and development unless withdrawal or other administrative action is clearly justified in the national interest.
2. BLM actively encourages and facilitates the development by private industry of public land mineral resources in a manner that satisfies national and local needs and provides for economically and environmentally sound exploration, extraction, and reclamation practices.



3. BLM will process mineral applications, permits, leases, and other use authorizations for public lands in a timely and efficient manner.
4. BLM's land use plans and multiple use management decisions will recognize that mineral exploration and development can occur concurrently or sequentially with other resource uses. The Bureau further recognizes that land use planning is a dynamic process and decisions will be updated as new data are evaluated.
5. Land use plans will reflect geology, energy, and mineral values on public lands through more effective mineral resource data assessment.
6. The Bureau will maintain effective professional, technical, and managerial personnel knowledgeable in mineral exploration and development.

These principles will be implemented immediately and further clarified where necessary through specific guidance to the field.

#### Decision:

- To encourage the utilization of mineral resources, manage the planning area open for mineral exploration and development unless designated otherwise under the individual management area (Note: total percent designated open greater than 99%).
- Coordinate minerals management where other entities administer the surface to be consistent with their surface concerns while encouraging mineral development.
- Fossil collecting in general has been identified as a resource use within the planning area, however, no information on significant collection sites is available. Therefore, all type localities will be managed for protection when identified.

#### Other Legislation and Policy

The following legislation and policy (and future legislation) may affect land use allocations and/or management options:

1. American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978;
2. Archaeological Resource Protection Act of 1979;
3. Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended;
4. Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 ;
5. Managing California's Public Lands - State Director Guidance for Fiscal Years 1983 - 1987;
6. National Environmental Policy Act of 1969;
7. National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

## II. SUPPORT NEEDS

#### Livestock Grazing

- development of monitoring plan



## Water Quality and Watershed Protection

- development of a monitoring plan which will ensure maintenance (where conditions are acceptable) or improvement of the watershed and water quality

## Special Land and Resource Use Needs

### Apiary

- develop procedures to create a more cost-effective apiary management program (e.g., raise fees to comparability with private land)

### Illegal Agricultural Cultivation

- eradication of marijuana cooperatively with other federal, state, and local agencies

### Safety

- transportation plan to include a maintenance schedule, reconstruction needs, future needs, signing plan, etc.
- provide for appropriate search and rescue involvement as directed by BLM Manual 8361.2 which may include:
  1. monitoring a search effort and completing required reports
  2. providing local agencies with information regarding topography, visitor use areas, water sources, mineshafts, structures, etc.
  3. supplying maps, vehicles, radios, or aircraft
  4. utilizing employees to manage or participate in searches
- hazard abatement

### Fire

- modified fire suppression plan to include prescribed burning, recommendations for modification of contracts to limit suppression actions (and associated costs) that may conflict with fuels management goals, and manage fuels to reduce the potential for catastrophic wildfires
- continue existing fire management cooperative agreements with local, state, and other federal agencies; develop an agreement to include the military and reciprocal support

### Cadastral Survey

- there will be considerable need for cadastral survey support for resolution of some unauthorized uses and for some parcels identified for land tenure adjustment

## Minerals

- in conjunction with Geology, Energy, and Minerals (GEM) assessments, identify fossil type localities

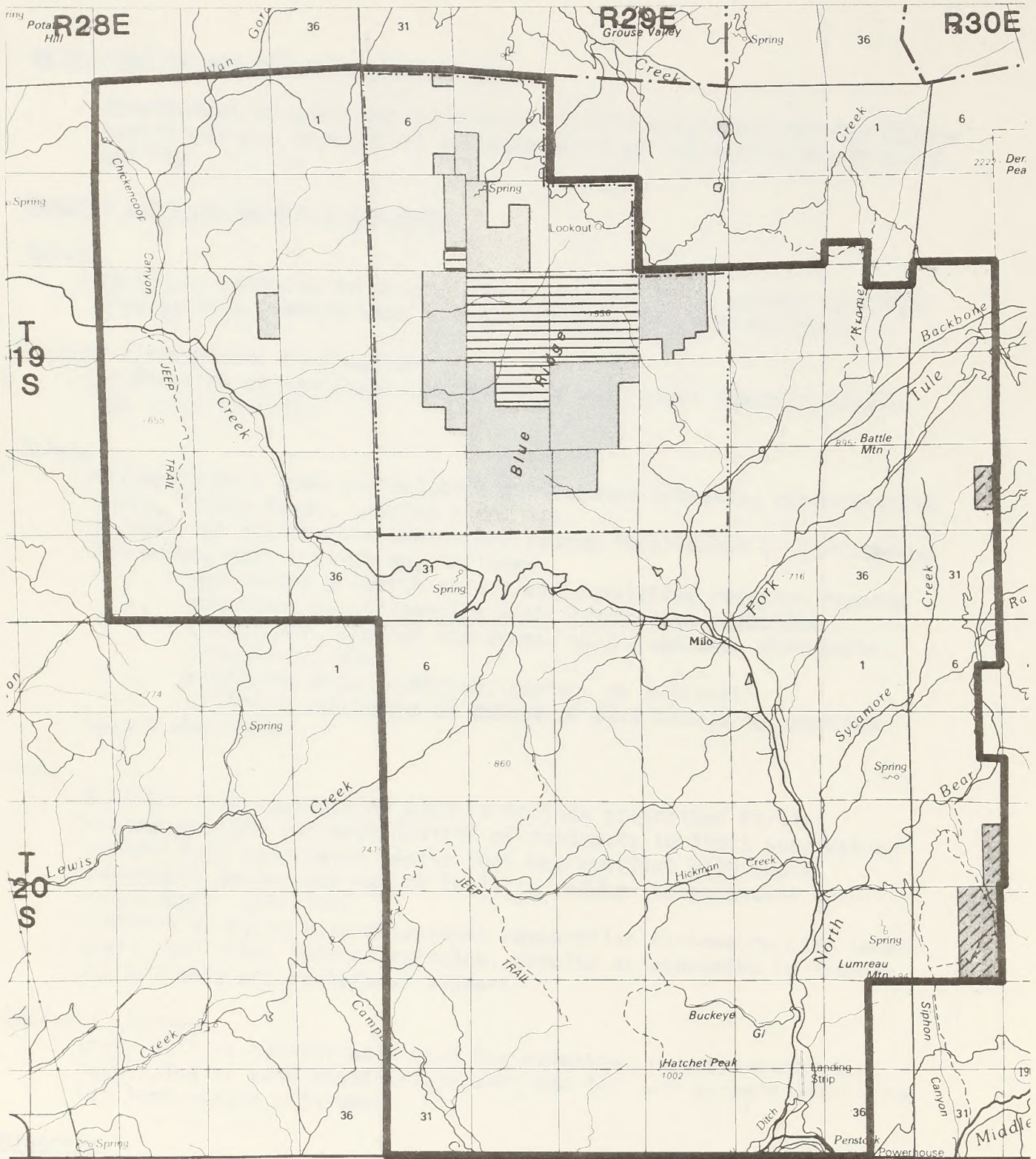







1. The map shows the location of the project area, which is situated in the central part of the region. The project area is highlighted in the center of the map.

2. The map also shows the location of the project area, which is situated in the central part of the region. The project area is highlighted in the center of the map.

3. The map also shows the location of the project area, which is situated in the central part of the region. The project area is highlighted in the center of the map.



### Blue Ridge Management Area

-  Parcels Under Land Tenure Adjustment Review
-  Acquisitions by Other Agencies
-  California Condor Critical Habitat



## BLUE RIDGE MANAGEMENT AREA (MA)

### I. INTRODUCTION

The Blue Ridge MA is located in Tulare County, twelve miles north of Porterville, California. The MA includes all public land north of Lake Success, east of Yokohl Valley, and west of Sequoia National Forest. The MA is primarily undeveloped and can be described as a mountainous pine-oak woodland with a heavy shrub understory.

The basic management concern for this MA is its value as critical habitat for the federally listed endangered California condor.

3,820 acres - Federal surface/subsurface  
4,460 acres - Federal subsurface only  
440 acres - Released Wilderness Study Area (CA-010-025)

### II. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The primary management emphasis is the protection of the designated critical habitat area for the California condor in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG).

Other resource uses will be managed and developed if no adverse impact to the critical habitat area occurs.

### III. RATIONALE

A portion of the area has been designated by USFWS as critical roosting habitat for the California condor. As mandated by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, no actions will be permitted within this designated area that will jeopardize the continued existence of the species. Because the condor is a federally listed endangered species, its designated critical habitat area must be protected.

### IV. LAND USE DECISIONS

#### Livestock Grazing

#### C Category Allotment

Bear Creek (0024) - Manage for 10 livestock AUMs season long to fully utilize the available forage while at the same time not limiting other resource needs (e.g., wildlife).

#### Special Land and Resource Use Needs

- Manage designated critical California condor habitat as such in conjunction with the USFWS and CDFG.

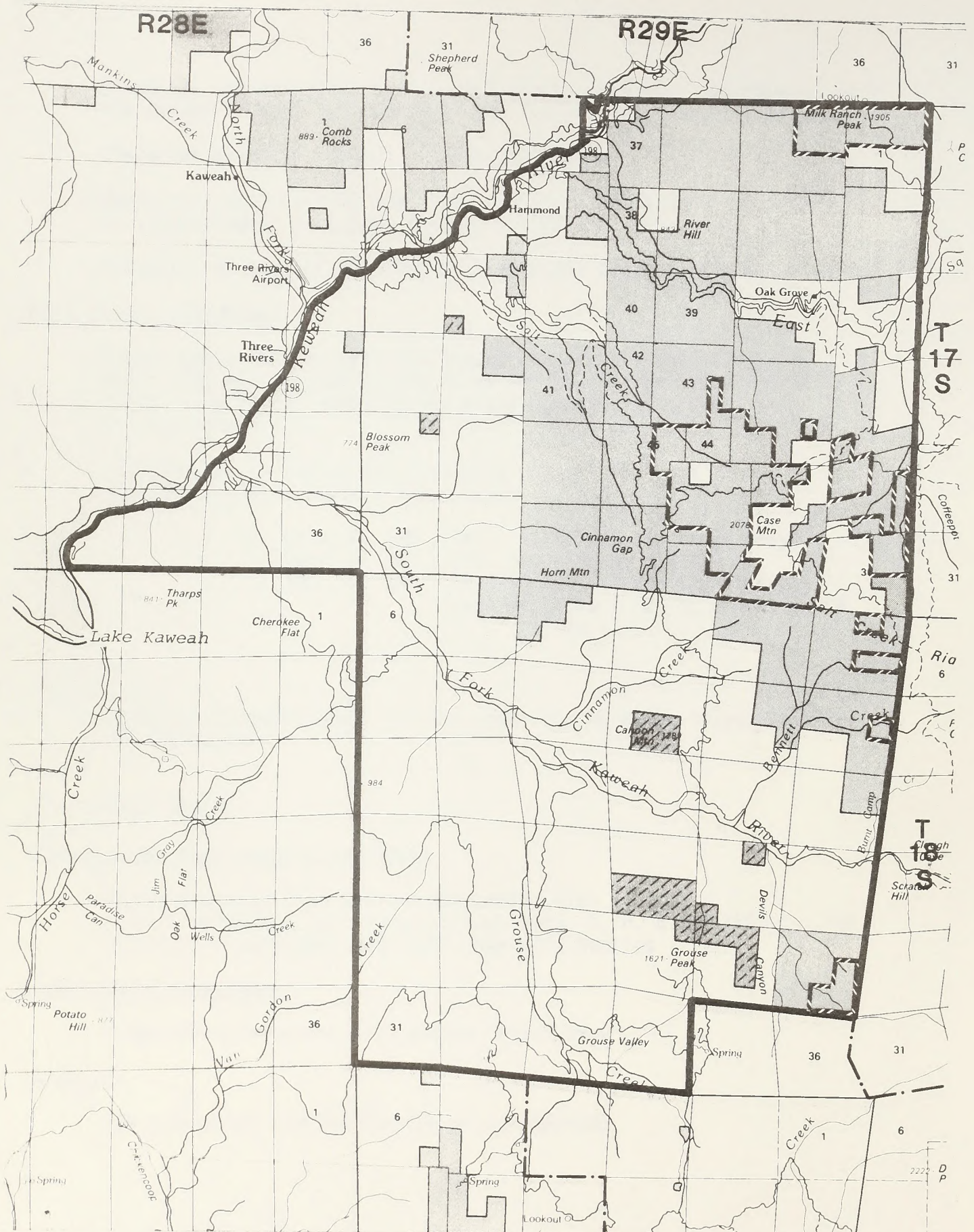






Case Management System Data Summary





### Case Mountain/Milk Ranch Peak Management Area

-  Parcels Under Land Tenure Adjustment Review
-  SYU-15 Area of Coverage (approx)



## CASE MOUNTAIN/MILK RANCH PEAK MANAGEMENT AREA (MA)

### I. INTRODUCTION

The Case Mountain/Milk Ranch Peak MA is located in Tulare County to the south and east of Three Rivers, California. The MA includes all public land which bordered by the Sequoia National Park to the north and east, the Kaweah River to the west, and the Sequoia National Forest to the south. The area can be described as undeveloped and mountainous with conifers (Case Mtn.), oak (Milk Ranch Peak), and a heavy understory of chaparral. Case Mountain also contains redwood groves of over 280 trees with a diameter at breast height of over 80 inches.

The basic management concerns for this MA are the protection of the Sequoia Redwood grove, the maintenance of the critical winter range for deer, and fuels management.

120 acres - Federal surface only  
18,370 acres - Federal surface/subsurface  
8,110 acres - Federal subsurface only  
6,380 acres - Released Wilderness Study Area (CA-010-023)

### II. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The primary management emphasis is:

1. protecting the redwood groves for aesthetic and human interest values while managing for timber production based on economic feasibility;
2. allocating forage for livestock and deer to attain optimum production levels while maintaining critical vegetation cover to protect the watershed.

### III. RATIONALE

The area includes critical deer winter range for the Mineral King deer herd. As a result, forage allocations within that critical area will first meet the needs of the deer.

The Case Mountain Sequoia groves are unique and have high scenic, human interest, and scientific values. These values far outweigh the value of the larger trees for timber production. However, removal of the ladder fuels are necessary to safeguard the groves.

The majority of the land in this MA has steep slopes with high erodible, frail soils. To assure downstream users a supply of good quality water and to protect aquatic, scenic, and deer habitat values, both the water quality and the watershed must be protected.

#### IV. LAND USE DECISIONS

##### Livestock Grazing

###### M Category Allotments

Case Mountain (0014) - Manage for 170 livestock AUMs season long.

Horn Mountain (0036) - Manage for 99 livestock AUMs season long and at least 127 deer AUMs.

###### C Category Allotments

Blossom Peak (0005) - Manage for 7 livestock AUMs from 03/01 to 06/01 and at least 21 deer AUMs.

Oak Grove (0061) - Manage for 237 livestock AUMs from 04/01 to 09/30 and at least 18 deer AUMs.

Milk Ranch Peak (0103) - Manage for 132 livestock AUMs from 03/01 to 09/30 and at least 40 deer AUMs.

##### Water Quality and Watershed Protection

- Salt Creek Road will be managed to stabilize erosion and Salt Creek (Trib. 3A) will be managed to decrease the amount of fecal coliform to an acceptable level.

##### Special Land and Resource Use Needs

- Protect the redwood groves on Case Mountain and manage for timber production under the constraints of VRM Class III.
- Develop a five-year harvest plan as recommended by Sustained Yield Unit-15.
- Obtain at least administrative access to Case Mountain.
- Obtain public access to Milk Ranch Peak.

##### Land Tenure Adjustment

- Environmentally review the following parcels for land tenure adjustment (approximately 880 acres):

T. 17S., R. 29E., Sec. 17, SW~~1~~SW~~4~~  
Sec. 30, NE~~1~~NE~~4~~  
T. 18S., R. 29E., Sec. 10, E~~1~~SW~~4~~, W~~1~~SE~~4~~  
Sec. 22, S~~1~~ (Exchange Only-EO)  
Sec. 23, NW~~1~~NE~~4~~, SW~~1~~SW~~4~~ (EO)  
Sec. 26, W~~1~~NE~~4~~, N~~1~~NW~~4~~, NW~~1~~SE~~4~~ (EO)  
Sec. 27, NE~~1~~NE~~4~~ (EO)



## V. SUPPORT NEEDS

### Livestock Grazing

#### M Category Allotments

- Case Mountain (0014) - develop 2 springs (or troughs)
  - vegetation manipulation of 800 acres
- Horn Mountain (0036) - develop 2 springs (or troughs)
  - vegetation manipulation of 700 acres

### Water Quality and Watershed Protection

- watershed activity plan and/or Best Management Practices (BMP) to include fencing of water sources, check dams, road rehabilitation, etc.

### Special Land and Resource Use Needs

- timber/fuels/forest products management plan

#### IV. LAND USE DECISIONS

##### Livestock Grazing

###### M Category Allotments

Case Mountain (0014) - Manage for 170 livestock AUMs season long.

Horn Mountain (0036) - Manage for 99 livestock AUMs season long and at least 127 deer AUMs.

###### C Category Allotments

Blossom Peak (0005) - Manage for 7 livestock AUMs from 03/01 to 06/01 and at least 21 deer AUMs.

Oak Grove (0061) - Manage for 237 livestock AUMs from 04/01 to 09/30 and at least 18 deer AUMs.

Milk Ranch Peak (0103) - Manage for 132 livestock AUMs from 03/01 to 09/30 and at least 40 deer AUMs.

##### Water Quality and Watershed Protection

- Salt Creek Road will be managed to stabilize erosion and Salt Creek (Trib. 3A) will be managed to decrease the amount of fecal coliform to an acceptable level.

##### Special Land and Resource Use Needs

- Protect the redwood groves on Case Mountain and manage for timber production under the constraints of VRM Class III.
- Develop a five-year harvest plan as recommended by Sustained Yield Unit-15.
- Obtain at least administrative access to Case Mountain.
- Obtain public access to Milk Ranch Peak.

##### Land Tenure Adjustment

- Environmentally review the following parcels for land tenure adjustment (approximately 880 acres):

T. 17S., R. 29E., Sec. 17, SW~~1~~SW~~4~~  
Sec. 30, NE~~1~~NE~~4~~  
T. 18S., R. 29E., Sec. 10, E~~1~~SW~~4~~, W~~1~~SE~~4~~  
Sec. 22, S~~1~~ (Exchange Only-EO)  
Sec. 23, NW~~1~~NE~~4~~, SW~~1~~SW~~4~~ (EO)  
Sec. 26, W~~1~~NE~~4~~, N~~1~~NW~~4~~, NW~~1~~SE~~4~~ (EO)  
Sec. 27, NE~~1~~NE~~4~~ (EO)



## V. SUPPORT NEEDS

### Livestock Grazing

#### M Category Allotments

Case Mountain (0014) - develop 2 springs (or troughs)  
- vegetation manipulation of 800 acres

Horn Mountain (0036) - develop 2 springs (or troughs)  
- vegetation manipulation of 700 acres

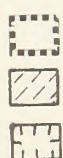
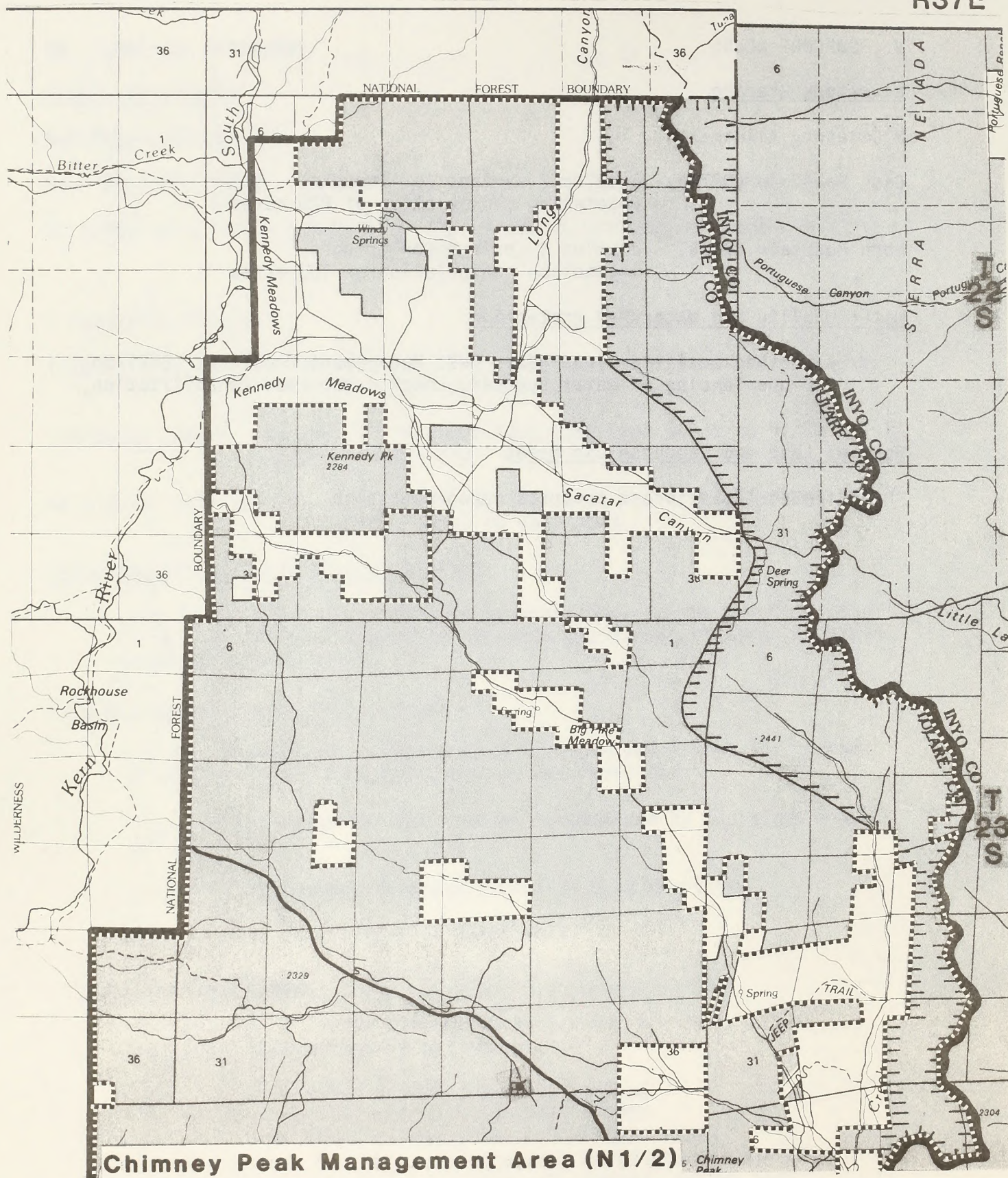
### Water Quality and Watershed Protection

- watershed activity plan and/or Best Management Practices (BMP) to include fencing of water sources, check dams, road rehabilitation, etc.

### Special Land and Resource Use Needs

- timber/fuels/forest products management plan





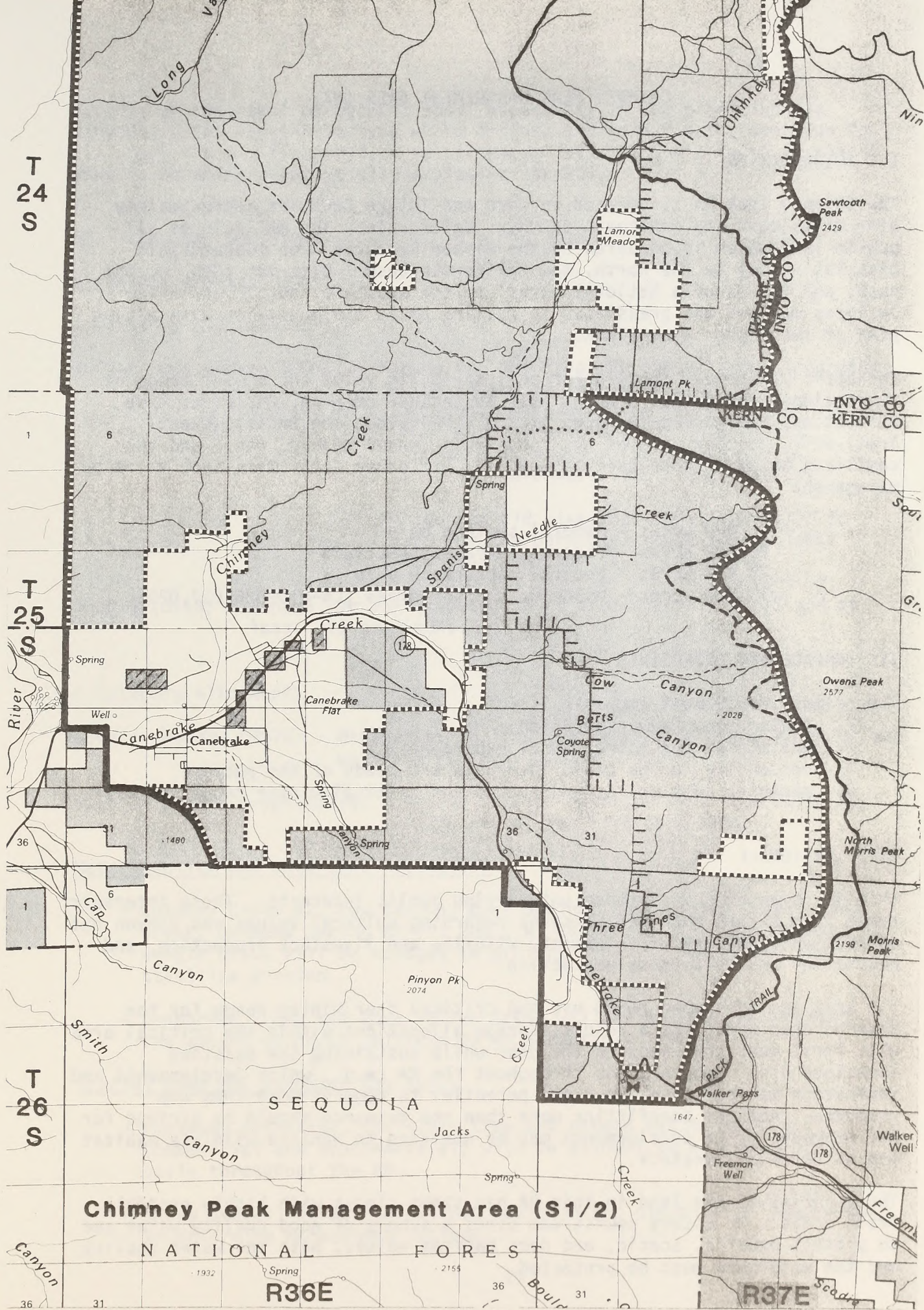
Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Area  
 Parcels Under Land Tenure Adjustment Review  
 Wilderness Study Areas



Communication Site  
 Trailhead Facility  
 ..... Lamont Peak Trail

—— Pacific Crest Trail ——— Proposed







## CHIMNEY PEAK MANAGEMENT AREA (MA)

### I. INTRODUCTION

The Chimney Peak MA is located in Kern and Tulare Counties approximately nine miles east and northeast of Onyx, California. The MA includes all public land which is bordered by the Bishop Resource Area (Bakersfield District - BLM) to the north, the California Desert District (CDD) to the east, and the Sequoia National Forest to the west and south. The area includes meadows and grasslands to rolling hills and mountains with pinyon pine at the higher elevations.

The basic management concern for this MA is its value for a wide range of recreational and forest product uses to include camping, Christmas tree harvesting, fuelwood gathering, hiking (to include the Pacific Crest Trail-PCT), hunting, pinyon nut harvesting, trail riding, etc., and the conflicts between these uses as well as with other activities such as range management.

400 acres - Federal surface only  
99,590 acres - Federal surface/subsurface  
15,410 acres - Federal subsurface only  
73,200 acres - Wilderness Study Areas (CA-010-026,027,029)

### II. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The primary management emphasis is:

1. proper range administration;
2. optimizing the recreational experience;
3. responding to the basic interests and needs of the public;
4. managing portions as year round and critical winter range for deer.

### III. RATIONALE

This MA is an area of intense but varying public interests. Those interests range from Native American concerns regarding cultural values and pinyon nut collection to mineral development, wildlife and livestock production, and recreation and wilderness protection.

The area includes year round use and critical deer winter range for the Monache deer herd. As a result, forage allocations within the critical area will first meet the needs of the deer while sustaining the existing livestock use. Many actions throughout the MA (e.g., water developments and vegetation manipulation) have the potential to benefit more than one resource. Actions benefitting more than one resource should be strived for. For example, water developments may be designed to enhance wildlife habitat and to benefit livestock.

The majority of the land in this MA has steep slopes with highly erodible, frail soils. To assure downstream users a supply of good quality water and to protect aquatic, scenic, and deer habitat values, both the water quality and the watershed must be protected.



Fire is an important management tool, especially in the predominantly pinyon-juniper vegetation type where disease and forest pests continue to kill many trees. Fire must be reintroduced into the environment to reduce what is becoming a potentially explosive situation.

#### IV. LAND USE DECISIONS

##### Livestock Grazing

###### I Category Allotments

Walker Pass Common (0077) - Manage for mulch in the annual range according to the following levels:

- 300 lbs. mulch/acre for slopes 0-25%
- 400 lbs. mulch/acre for slopes 26-50%
- 500 lbs. mulch/acre for slopes 51-75%
- 600 lbs. mulch/acre for slopes 76-100%.

- Manage for 978 livestock AUMs from 11/01 to 06/30 for the perennial range and at least 3,154 deer AUMs.

Scobie (0118) - Manage for 252 livestock AUMs from 06/01 to 11/15 and at least 215 deer AUMs.

###### C Category Allotments

Sacatar Meadow (0076) - Manage for 96 livestock AUMs from 03/01 to 10/31 and at least 161 deer AUMs.

Spanish Needle Creek (0120) - Manage for 40 livestock AUMs from 03/01 to 04/30 and at least 18 deer AUMs.

##### Water Quality and Watershed Protection

- Chimney Creek #2, Cow Canyon, Deer Spring, Long Valley Creek, Pine Creek, Unnamed Spring #2 (T. 24S., R. 36E., Sec. 12), and Spanish Needle Creek will be managed to protect riparian vegetation and stabilize erosion.
- Canebrake Creek and Long Valley Creek will be managed to decrease the amount of fecal coliform to an acceptable level.

##### Special Land and Resource Use Needs

- Fuelwood gathering, Christmas tree and pinyon nut harvesting (commercial and noncommercial) will be allowed on a case-by-case basis throughout the MA.
- Study overall effects of forest pests on the pinyon pine population to determine management options.

- Protect the cultural resource sites from vandalism or other active material agents of deterioration.
- Maintain Bear Mountain as a communication site.
- Obtain an easement for the helipad located near Chimney Peak work center.
- Continue withdrawal of land under Public Land Order 2594 (National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Area - approximately 94,800 acres).

#### Recreation Use

- Manage the PCT (Special Recreation Management Area) to maintain the designated VRM Classes II and III and continue closure of trail to ORV use.
- Complete Spanish Needle segment of the PCT.
- Designate PCT as a right-of-way to establish valid existing rights.
- Manage Lamont Peak Trail for recreational purposes as a tie-in to the PCT.

#### Land Tenure Adjustment

- Environmentally review the following parcels for land tenure adjustment (approximately 390 acres):

T. 24S., R. 36E., Sec. 27, NW¼SW¼  
 Sec. 28, SE¼NE¼, NE¼SE¼  
 T. 25S., R. 36E., Sec. 19, NE¼SE¼  
 Sec. 20, NW¼SW¼  
 Sec. 21, S¼NE¼NE¼, SW¼NE¼, NE¼SW¼,  
 E¼SW¼SW¼  
 Sec. 22, E¼NW¼NW¼, E¼W¼NW¼NW¼  
 Sec. 28, NW¼NW¼.

#### Minerals

- Manage to reduce hazards due to mining operations.
- The entire MA will be open for mineral exploration and development except where development will affect the designated VRM Class II and III ratings for the PCT.

#### V. SUPPORT NEEDS

Consideration of the public interests and the complex resource interrelationships found in the MA dictates that a coordinated resource management plan be prepared for the area.



## Livestock Grazing

### I Category Allotments

- Walker Pass Common (0077) - develop an allotment management plan (AMP)
- construct 11 miles of fencing
  - develop 4 springs (or troughs)
  - vegetation manipulation of 2,000 acres
  - fence known populations of Phacelia novemmillensis
  - watershed activity plan and/or BMP

- Scobie (0118) - develop AMP
- develop 2 springs (or troughs)
  - vegetation manipulation of 500 acres

### C Category Allotment

- Sacatar Meadow (0076) - watershed activity plan and/or BMP

## Water Quality and Watershed Protection

- watershed activity plan and/or BMP to include fencing of water sources, check dams, road rehabilitation, etc.

## Special Land and Resource Use Needs

- patrol known cultural sites outside Spanish Needle Canyon, in Sacatar Meadow, and near the gravel pit by Chimney Creek
- excavation of cultural sites where control has proven impossible
- fence Spanish Needle Village site
- develop a site plan for the Chimney Peak Work Center
- renegotiate the easement across land owned by Wayne Messick to place it farther north
- conduct cadastral survey on public land to benefit the work center plan development

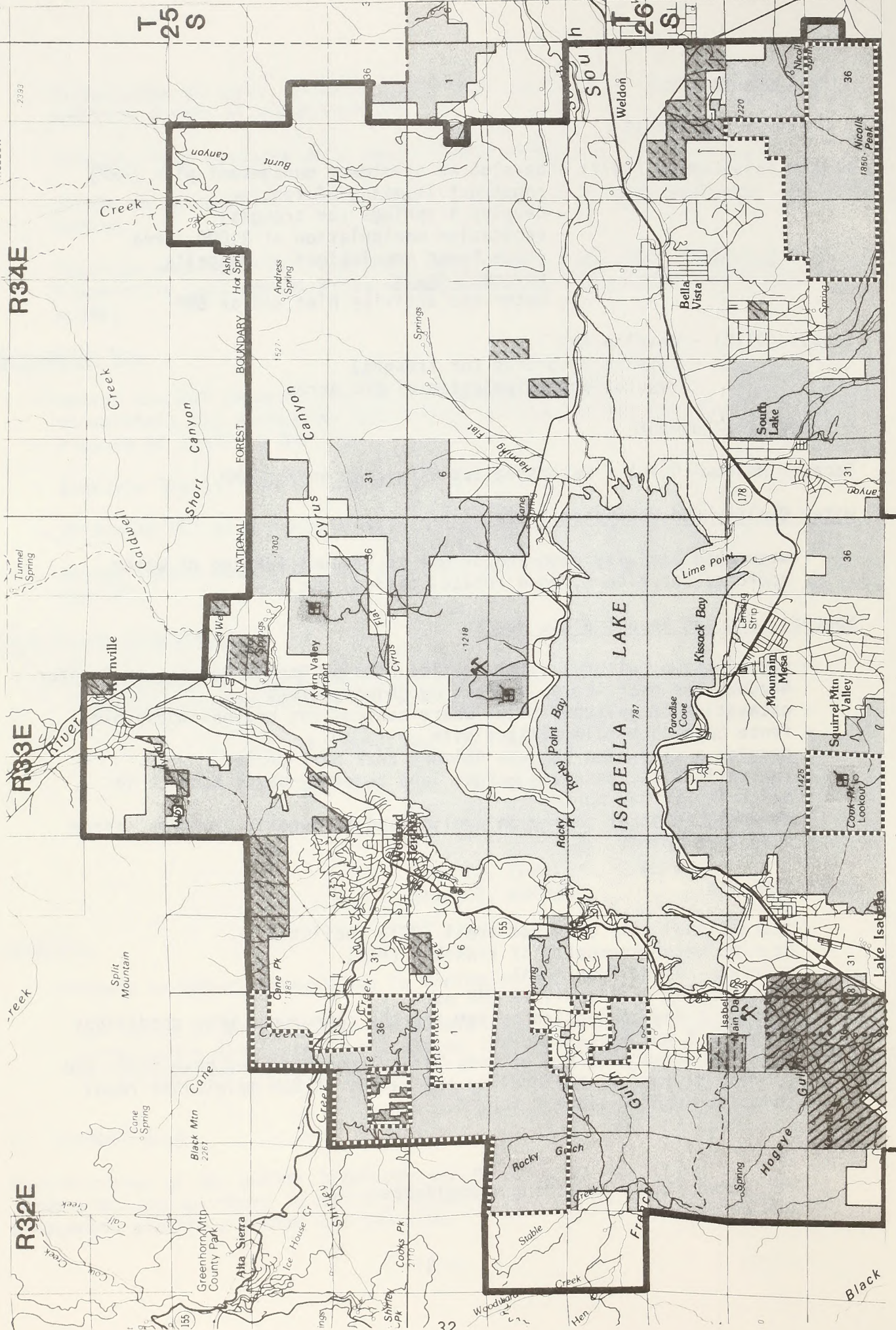
## Recreation Use

- recreational site plan for trail (PCT) facilities
- develop water source(s) if feasible (PCT)
- maintain Lamont Peak trail
- close Lamont Peak trail to ORV use
- develop a fee collection system for the campground when conditions warrant it
- maintain paved sections of Long Valley Loop Road and pave hills and corners to improve the quality and safety of BLM maintained roads
- cadastral survey support for PCT

## Minerals

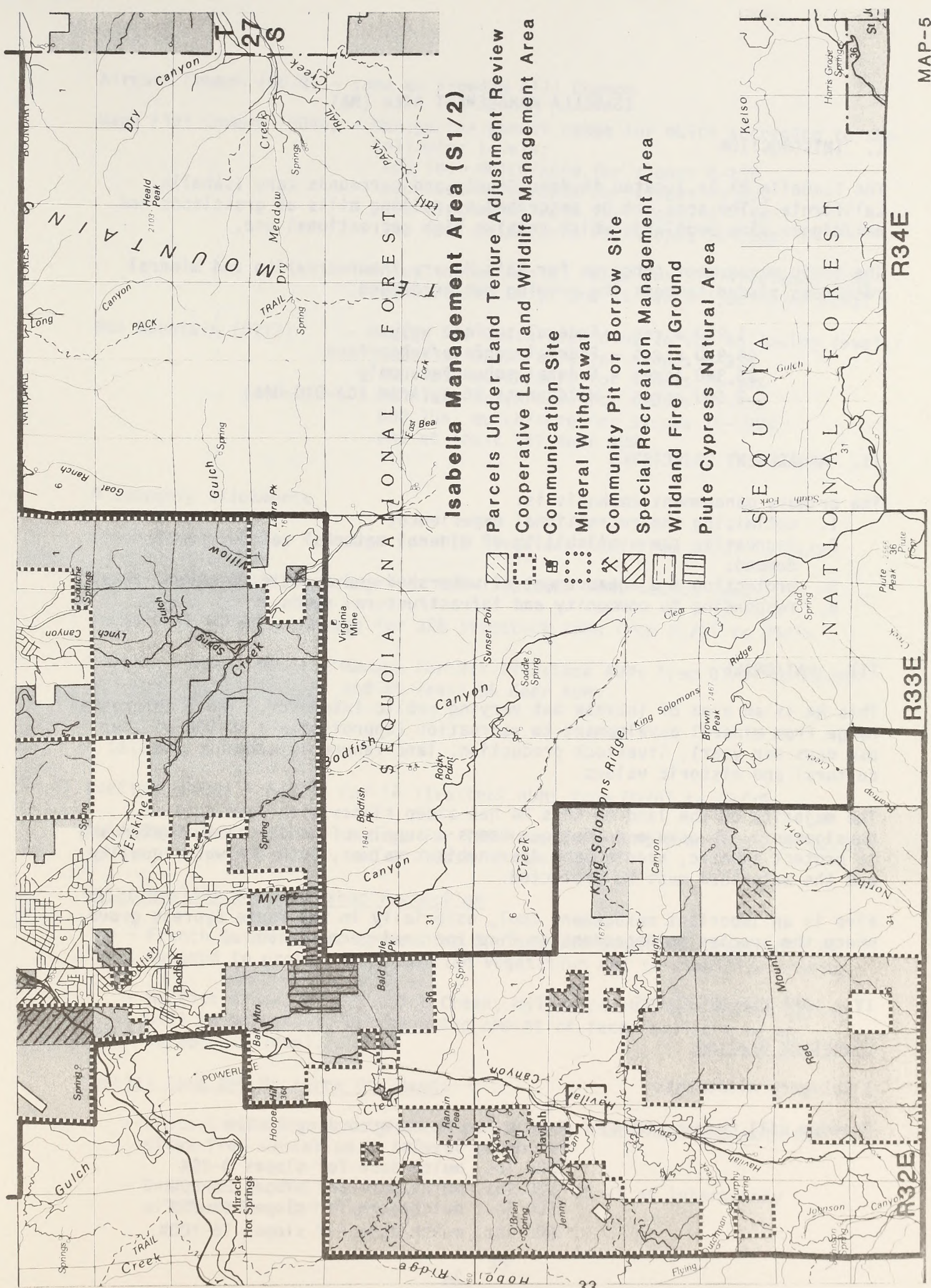
- reclamation program through compliance
- GEM assessment





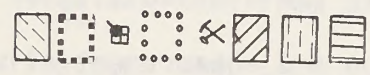
Isabella Management Area (N1/2)





# **Isabella Management Area (S1/2)**

- Parcels Under Land Tenure Adjustment Review
- Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Area
- Communication Site
- Mineral Withdrawal
- Community Pit or Borrow Site
- Special Recreation Management Area
- Wildland Fire Drill Ground
- Piute Cypress Natural Area





## ISABELLA MANAGEMENT AREA (MA)

### I. INTRODUCTION

The Isabella MA is located in Kern County and surrounds Lake Isabella, California. The area can be described as rolling hills of grasslands and oak/digger pine woodlands which receive high recreational use.

The basic management concerns for this MA are the recreation and mineral resources needed to meet the growing public demand.

- 1,980 acres - Federal surface only
- 44,950 acres - Federal surface/subsurface
- 32,360 acres - Federal subsurface only
- 3,580 acres - Wilderness Study Area (CA-010-046)

### II. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The primary management emphasis is:

1. optimizing the recreational experience;
2. increasing the availability of mineral material to meet public demand;
3. protection and enhancement of watershed and aquatic values;
4. responding to community and infrastructural needs.

### III. RATIONALE

This MA is an area of intense but varying public interests. Those interests range from mineral development to recreation (approximately 60,000 visitor use days per year), livestock production, land tenure adjustment, and cultural and historic values.

The majority of the land in this MA has steep slopes with poor soil development. To assure downstream users a supply of good quality water and to protect aquatic, scenic, and deer habitat values, both the water quality and the watershed must be protected.

Fire is an important management tool, especially in the Piute Cypress grove where the species is dependent on fire for seed germination.

### IV. LAND USE DECISIONS

#### Livestock Grazing

#### I Category Allotments

Freedom Hill Common (0074) - Manage for mulch according to the following levels:

- 300 lbs. mulch/acre for slopes 0-25%
- 400 lbs. mulch/acre for slopes 26-50%
- 500 lbs. mulch/acre for slopes 51-75%
- 600 lbs. mulch/acre for slopes 76-100%.



Airport Common (0078) - same as Freedom Hill Common

Wagy Flat Common (0090) - Manage the annual range for mulch according to the following levels:

400 lbs. mulch/acre for slopes 0-25%

500 lbs. mulch/acre for slopes 26-50%

600 lbs. mulch/acre for slopes 51-75%

700 lbs. mulch/acre for slopes 76-100%.

- Manage the perennial range for 518 livestock AUMs from 03/01 to 08/31 and at least 1,061 deer AUMs.

Red Mountain (0117) - Manage for mulch according to the following levels:

500 lbs. mulch/acre for slopes 0-25%

600 lbs. mulch/acre for slopes 26-50%

700 lbs. mulch/acre for slopes 51-75%

800 lbs. mulch/acre for slopes 76-100%

and at least 197 deer AUMs.

#### M Category Allotments

Lynch Canyon (0083) - Manage for 115 livestock AUMs from 03/01 to 04/30.

Cyrus Canyon (0084) - Manage for 230 livestock AUMs season long.

Cooks Peak (0085) - Manage for 328 livestock AUMs from 03/01 to 05/15.

Havilah Common (0087) - Manage for 371 livestock AUMs from 07/01 to 02/28 and at least 86 deer AUMs.

#### C Category Allotments

Bodfish (0089) - Manage for 14 livestock AUMs from 03/01 to 09/30.

Bald Eagle Peak (0119) - Manage for 168 livestock AUMs from 07/01 to 02/28 and at least 30 deer AUMs.

#### Water Quality and Watershed Protection

- French Gulch Creek, Keyes Mine Spring, and Southlake Creek will be managed to protect the riparian vegetation and to stabilize erosion.

- Bodfish Creek, French Gulch Creek, Willow Creek, and Bodfish Spring will be managed to decrease the amount of fecal coliform to an acceptable level.

#### Special Land and Resource Use Needs

- Protect both the aboriginal (Ker-311) and historical (Mammoth Mill) sites from vandalism.

- Designate T. 26S., R. 32E., Secs. 24 and 25 as an interagency wildland fire drill ground.







Sec. 24, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  
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T. 27S., R. 32E., Sec. 28, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$   
 Sec. 12, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$   
 Sec. 26, SE $\frac{1}{4}$   
 Sec. 27, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$   
 T. 27S., R. 33E., Sec. 6, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$   
 Sec. 7, NW $\frac{1}{4}$   
 Sec. 24, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$   
 T. 28S., R. 32E., Sec. 12, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$   
 T. 28S., R. 33E., Sec. 19, SE $\frac{1}{4}$

## Minerals

- Open Stine Cove as a dimension stone borrow pit.
- Manage entire MA open for mineral exploration and development except a portion of the Keyesville area (T. 26S., R. 32E., Sec. 25, SE $\frac{1}{4}$  and Sec. 36, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ) where segregation from mineral entry will be continued.
- Reduce mining related hazards in the Keyesville area.
- Keep Keyesville borrow pit available on demand.

## V. SUPPORT NEEDS

Consideration of the public interests and the complex resource interrelationships found in the MA dictates that a coordinated resource management plan be prepared for the Keyesville/Wagy Flat area.

### Livestock Grazing

#### I Category Allotments

Freedom Hill Common (0074) - develop an AMP  
 - develop 1 ungulate guzzler (or trough)  
 - watershed activity plan and/or BMP

Airport Common (0078) - develop an AMP  
 - develop 1 ungulate guzzler (or trough)

Wagy Flat Common (0090) - construct 3 miles of fence with appropriate cattleguards  
 - develop 2 springs (to include troughs)  
 - vegetation manipulation of 500 acres  
 - watershed activity plan and/or BMP



- Red Mountain (0117) - develop an AMP  
- develop 2 springs (to include troughs)  
- vegetation manipulation of 400 acres

#### M Category Allotments

Lynch Canyon (0083) - develop 1 ungulate guzzler

Cyrus Canyon (0084) - develop 1 ungulate guzzler

Cooks Peak (0085) - develop 1 spring (to include trough)

Havilah Common (0087) - install 1 cattleguard  
- vegetation manipulation of 750 acres

#### Water Quality and Watershed Protection

- watershed activity plan and/or BMP
- administrative access to Southlake block
- develop sanitation facilities in Keyesville area

#### Special Land and Resource Use Needs

- activity plan for Ker-311
- indefinite loan of Mammoth Mine Stamp Mill to museum

#### Recreation Use

- maintain withdrawal of Piute Cypress Natural Area
- prescribed burning in Piute Cypress Area
- Recreation Activity Management Plan (RAMP) for Keyesville area
- cadastral survey of public land in Keyesville area, to include corner monumentation of area segregated from mineral entry to aid in identification of recreational gold panning area.











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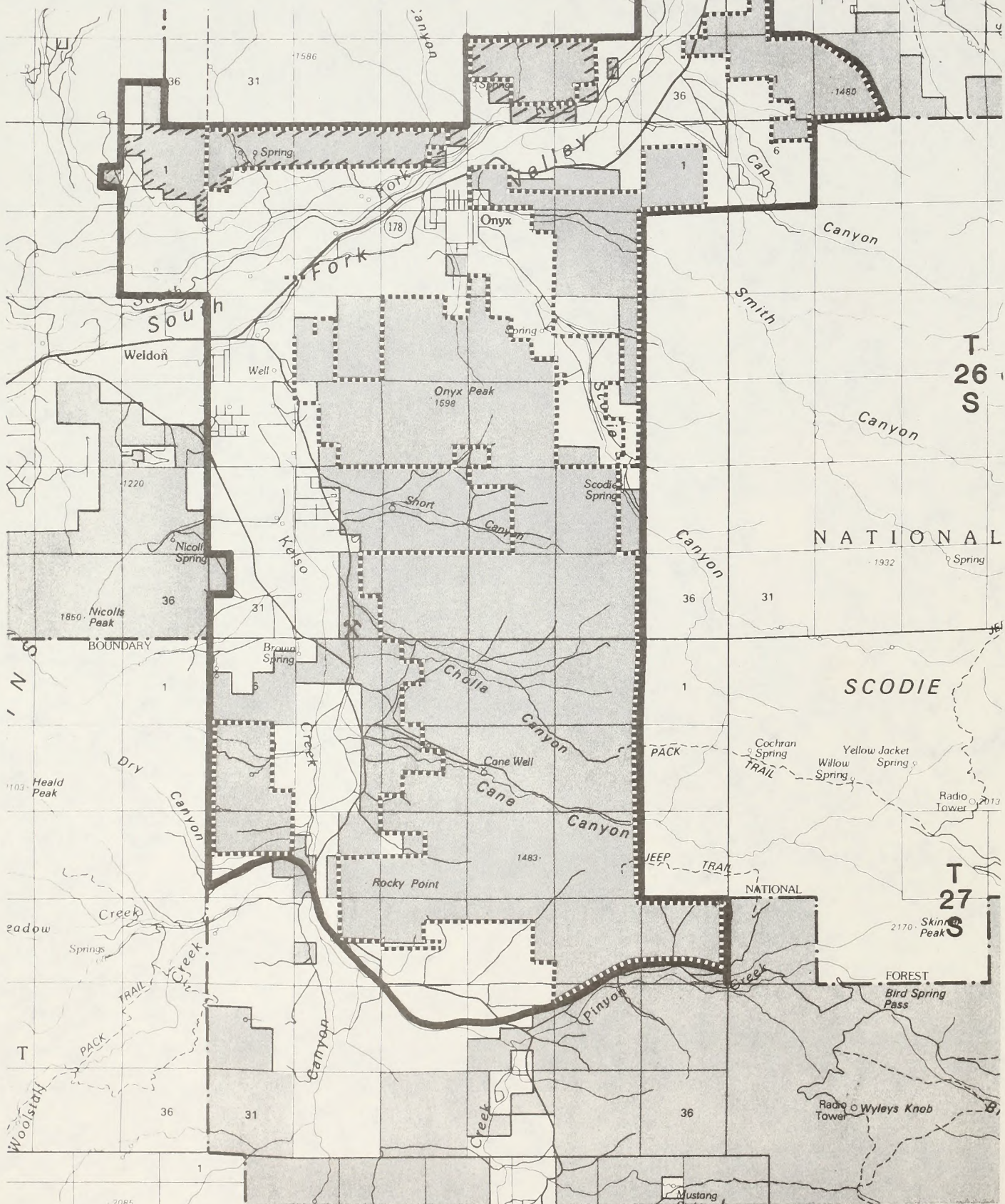
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R36E

T 25 S

# Kelso Creek Management Area

-  Cooperative Management with Nature Conservancy
-  Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Area
-  Parcels Under Land Tenure Adjustment Review
-  Community Pit or Borrow Site





## KELSO CREEK MANAGEMENT AREA (MA)

### I. INTRODUCTION

The Kelso Creek MA is located in Kern County surrounding Onyx, California. The MA includes all public land which is bordered by the Sequoia National Forest to the north, east, and west, and the California Desert District (CDD) to the south. This area can be described as grasslands to rolling hills with a sparse joshua tree woodland.

The basic management concern for this MA is resource allocations as they relate to basic public needs and interests.

22,720 acres - Federal surface/subsurface  
3,970 acres - Federal subsurface only  
8,040 acres - Released Wilderness Study Areas  
(CA-010-030,032,045)

### II. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The primary management emphasis is proper range administration and responding to the basic interests and needs of the public.

### III. RATIONALE

This MA is an area of varying public interests and needs. In view of the possibility of community expansion within the vicinity of the MA, these interests and needs will not only continue but may increase.

### IV. LAND USE DECISIONS

#### Livestock Grazing

#### I Category Allotments

Short Canyon (0082) - Manage for mulch according to the following levels:

300 lbs. mulch/acre for slopes 0-25%  
400 lbs. mulch/acre for slopes 26-50%  
500 lbs. mulch/acre for slopes 51-75%  
600 lbs. mulch/acre for slopes 76-100%.

Cholla Canyon (0086) - same as Short Canyon

#### M Category Allotments

Kelso Peak (0075) - Manage for 593 livestock AUMs from 02/01 to 05/15.

Smith Canyon (0080) - Manage for 224 livestock AUMs season long.

## C Category Allotment

Fay Canyon (0079) - Manage for 64 livestock AUMs from 03/01 to 04/30.

### Special Land and Resource Use Needs

- When no longer needed, develop community pit at Cholla Canyon as a sanitary landfill.
- Continue withdrawal of land under Public Land Order 2594 (National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Area - approximately 17,500 acres).

### Land Tenure Adjustment

- Environmentally review the following parcels for land tenure adjustment (approximately 80 acres):

T. 25S., R. 36E., Sec. 30, SW¼NW¼  
T. 26S., R. 34E., Sec. 2, NE¼SE¼.

- Cooperatively manage the following parcels with the Nature Conservancy to protect the riparian habitat values:

T. 25S., R. 35E., Secs. 34 and 35  
T. 26S., R. 34E., Sec. 1  
T. 26S., R. 35E., Secs. 4, 5, and 6.

### Minerals

- Open Kelso Valley pit for decomposed granite removal and designate others as the resource becomes known.

## V. SUPPORT NEEDS

### Livestock Grazing

#### I Category Allotments

- Short Canyon (0082) - develop an AMP
- develop 2 ungulate guzzlers (or troughs)
  - construct 1 cattleguard
- Cholla Canyon (0086) - rewrite the existing AMP
- develop 2 ungulate guzzlers (or troughs)
  - construct 1 cattleguard



### M Category Allotments

Kelso Peak (0075) - obtain administrative access to allotment  
- develop 2 ungulate guzzlers (or troughs)

Smith Canyon (0080) - develop 2 ungulate guzzlers (or troughs)

### Land Tenure Adjustment

- cooperative agreement with Nature Conservancy

### Minerals

- GEM assessment



# North Fork Management Area (N1/2)

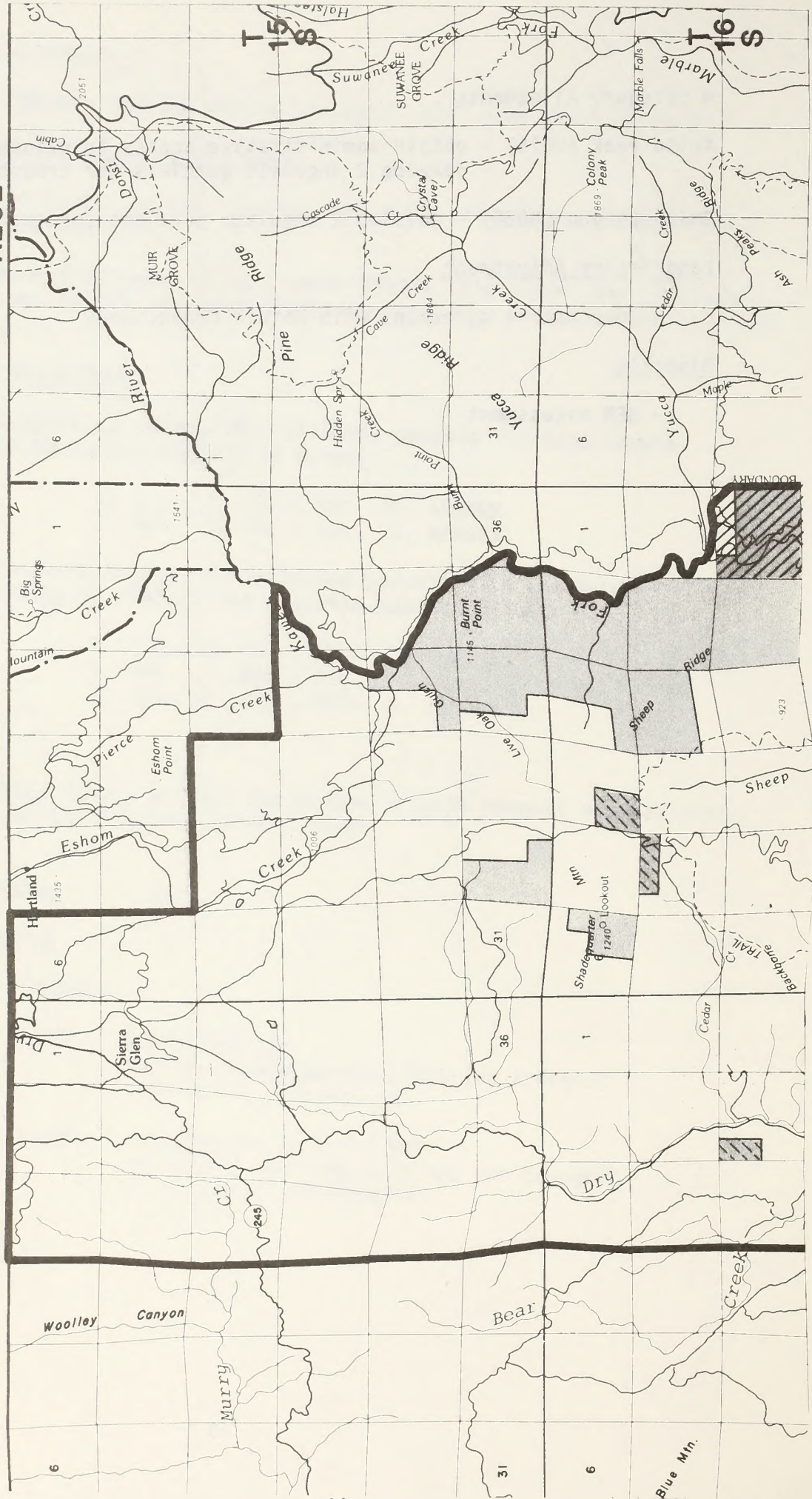
- Parcels Under Land Tenure Adjustment Review
- Special Recreation Management Area

MAP-7

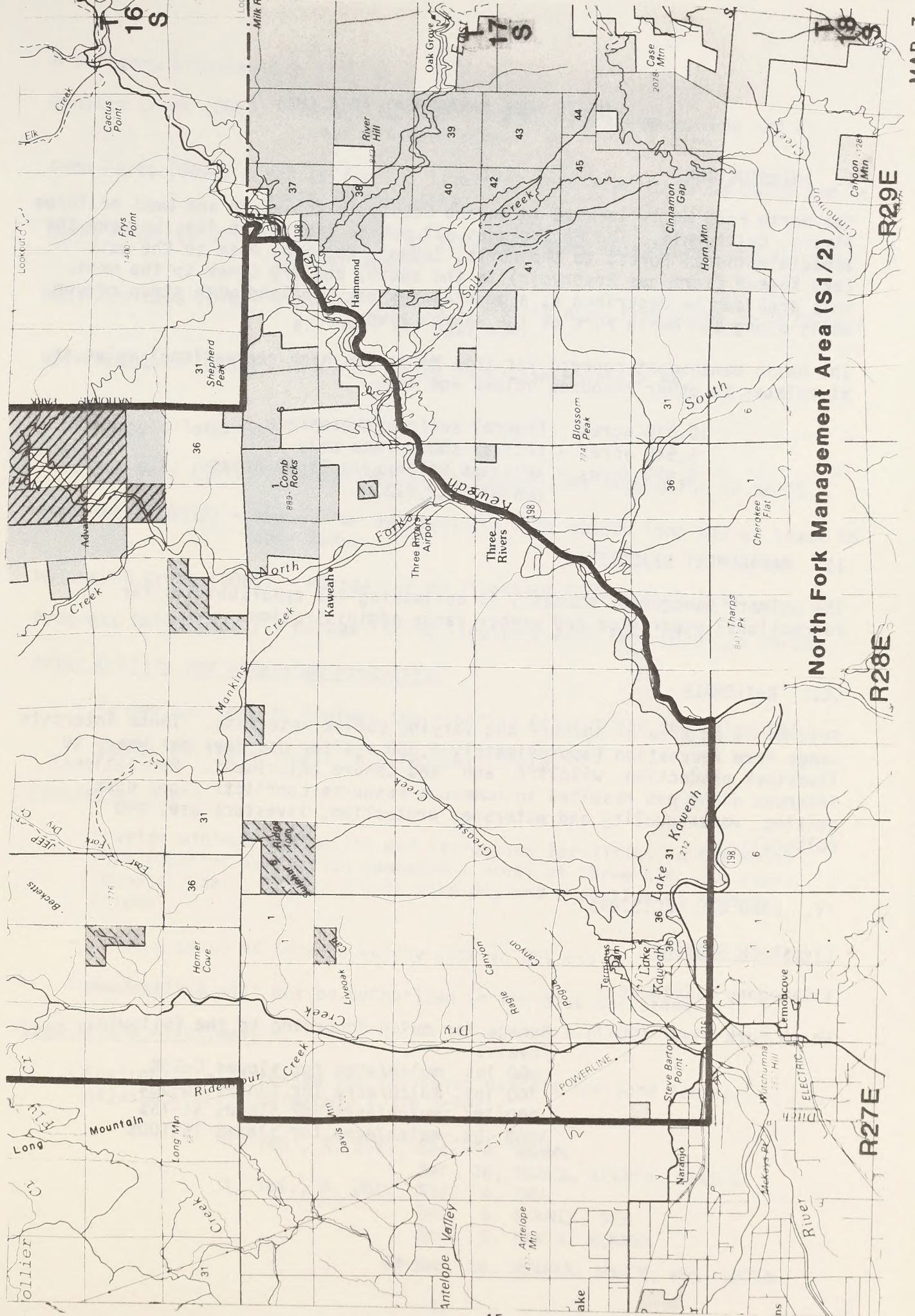
R29E

R28E

R27E







North Fork Management Area (S1/2)



## NORTH FORK MANAGEMENT AREA (MA)

### I. INTRODUCTION

The North Fork MA is located in Tulare County to the north and west of Three Rivers, California. The MA includes all public land which lies between the Sequoia National Forest to the north, Sequoia National Park to the east, Lake Kaweah (Terminus Reservoir) to the south, and Dry Creek to the west. This area can be described as a mountainous oak woodland with steep canyon walls along the North Fork of the Kaweah River.

The basic management concern for this MA is its high recreational value as it relates to other resource values and uses.

10,870 acres - Federal surface/subsurface  
6,940 acres - Federal subsurface only  
5,430 acres - Released Wilderness Study Areas  
(CA-010-022,023)

### II. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The primary management emphasis is optimizing the opportunities for recreational experience and proper range administration.

### III. RATIONALE

This MA is an area of intense but varying public interests. Those interests range from recreation (approximately 6,500 visitor use days per year) to livestock production, wildlife, and land tenure adjustment. Recreational interest alone has resulted in numerous resource conflicts (wood duck nesting, water quality and watershed protection, livestock use, and cultural).

### IV. LAND USE DECISIONS

#### Livestock Grazing

#### I Category Allotment

North Fork River (0017) - Manage for mulch according to the following levels:

600 lbs. mulch/acre for slopes 0-25%  
700 lbs. mulch/acre for slopes 26-50%  
900 lbs. mulch/acre for slopes 51-75%  
1000 lbs. mulch/acre for slopes 76-100%.



## M Category Allotments

- Manikin Creek (0033) - Manage for 108 livestock AUMs season long and at least 718 deer AUMs.
- Comb Rocks (0094) - Manage for 100 livestock AUMs from 10/01 to 06/30 and at least 76 deer AUMs.
- Burnt Point (0102) - Manage for 103 livestock AUMs season long and at least 28 deer AUMs.
- Washburn Cave (0104) - Manage for 118 livestock AUMs from 03/01 to 09/30 and at least 141 deer AUMs.
- Horn Mountain (0036) - See Milk Ranch Peak/Case Mountain MA

## C Category Allotments

- Live Oak Pass (0012) - Manage for 70 livestock AUMs from 06/01 to 09/30.
- Comb Rocks (0034) - Manage for 39 livestock AUMs season long and at least 54 deer AUMs.
- Wagonshed Creek (0066) - Manage for 22 livestock AUMs season long.
- Progress Gulch (0095) - Manage for 80 livestock AUMs from 03/01 to 06/30.

## Water Quality and Watershed Protection

- Manage the area to protect the riparian habitat and the watershed.
- Reduce coliform levels in perennial streams.

## Recreation Use

- Provide minimum sanitation and recreation facilities in the North Fork (Special Recreation Management Area) at three high use areas found at Cherry Falls, Picnic Site #1, and a portion of Advance Colony.
- Close 5 acres at Advance Colony site to ORV use.
- Woodcutting will not be authorized in the Blue Oak stand.

## Land Tenure Adjustment

- Environmentally review the following parcels for land tenure adjustment (approximately 1,770 acres):

T. 16S., R. 27E., Sec. 14, W½NW¼  
Sec. 26, N½NE¼, SE½NE¼, NE½SE¼  
T. 16S., R. 28E., Sec. 4, SW¼  
Sec. 6, SE½NE¼, SE¼  
Sec. 8, N½NE¼, NE½NW¼  
Sec. 34, NE½NE¼, W½NE¼, NW¼, W½SW¼



T. 17S., R. 27E., Sec. 12, N½NW¼  
T. 17S., R. 28E., Sec. 4, Lots 3 and 4  
Sec. 6, Lots 1, 5, 6, and 7, S½NE¼,  
SE½NW¼, E½SW¼, SE¼  
Sec. 12, NE½SW¼

## V. SUPPORT NEEDS

Consideration of the public interests and the complex resource interrelationships found in the MA dictates that a coordinated resource management plan be prepared for the area.

### Livestock Grazing

#### I Category Allotment

North Fork River (0017) - develop an AMP  
- develop 3 springs (to include troughs)  
- vegetation manipulation of 680 acres  
- watershed activity plan and/or BMP

#### M Category Allotments

Manikin Creek (0033) - develop 2 springs (to include troughs)

Comb Rocks (0094) - develop 1 spring (to include trough)

Burnt Point (0102) - develop 1 ungulate guzzler (or trough)  
- vegetation manipulation of 80 acres

Washburn Cove (0104) - develop 1 spring (to include trough)

### Water Quality and Watershed Protection

- BMP
- RAMP
- develop sanitation facilities near high use areas
- modified fire suppression plan

### Special Land and Resource Use Needs

- re-evaluate the Cherry Falls area for its value as Wood Duck nesting habitat

### Recreation Use

- RAMP for the Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)
- fencing of Advance



## TEHACHAPI MANAGEMENT AREA (MA)

### I. INTRODUCTION

The Tehachapi MA is located in Kern County to the east of Bakersfield, California (see map in pocket). This MA includes all public land which is bordered by the Sequoia National Forest to the north, the California Desert District (CDD) to the east and south, and the Coast/Valley Planning Area (Caliente-Bakersfield, BLM) to the west. The area can be described as mountainous with steep sparsely vegetated slopes to dense chaparral which may include a few oak and pine.

The basic management concern for this MA is resource allocations (especially wind energy and the Pacific Crest Trail) as they relate to basic public needs, interests, and safety.

- 80 acres - Federal surface only
- 33,680 acres - Federal surface/subsurface
- 87,050 acres - Federal subsurface only
- 480 acres - Federal subsurface oil and gas only

### II. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The primary management emphasis is:

1. proper range administration;
2. making land available for development of energy resources (e.g., wind energy);
3. construction and maintenance of the Pacific Crest Trail;
4. hazard abatement.

### III. RATIONALE

As new and innovative methods of utilizing the available energy resources (e.g., wind energy) occur as a result of the ever increasing energy needs, the public land must be made available to meet this demand within legal and environmental constraints.

### IV. LAND USE DECISIONS

#### Livestock Grazing

##### M Category Allotments

Studhorse Canyon (0051) - Manage for 205 livestock AUMs from 03/01 to 05/30 and at least 78 deer AUMs.

Sand Canyon (0111) - Manage for 365 livestock AUMs season long and at least 269 deer AUMs.



## C Category Allotments

Rancheria Creek (0023) - Manage for 63 livestock AUMs from 04/01 to 10/01 and at least 14 deer AUMs.

Goldpan Canyon (0045) - Manage for 74 livestock AUMs season long and at least 3 deer AUMs.

Rankin Ranch (0047) - Manage for 442 livestock AUMs season long and at least 74 deer AUMs.

Sand Canyon (0049) - Manage for 113 livestock AUMs season long and at least 63 deer AUMs.

Loco Bill Canyon (0059) - Manage for 134 livestock AUMs from 04/01 to 10/01 and at least 26 deer AUMs.

Nellie's Nipple (0081) - Manage for 1,104 livestock AUMs from 03/15 to 10/14 and at least 49 deer AUMs.

John's Peak (0113) - Manage for 160 livestock AUMs season long and at least 29 deer AUMs.

## Special Land and Resource Use Needs

- Provide for the orderly development of wind energy facilities within the constraints of valid existing rights.
- Evaluate potential for designated right-of-way corridors within the MA.

## Recreation Use

- Obtain easement for the Cache Peak segment of the PCT.
- Construct the PCT, manage it to maintain designated VRM Classes II and III, and continues closure to ORV use.
- Designate PCT as a right-of-way to establish valid existing rights.

## Land Tenure Adjustment

- Environmentally review the following parcels for land tenure adjustment (approximately 5,440 acres):

T. 29S., R. 30E., Sec. 34, MS 5009

T. 29S., R. 31E., Sec. 6, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$   
Sec. 34, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$

T. 29S., R. 32E., Sec. 12, Lots 2, 4 through 9  
Sec. 16, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$   
Sec. 24, S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$

T. 29S., R. 33E., Sec. 7, Lot 5, MS 765, MS 766  
Sec. 34, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$   
Sec. 36, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$

T. 30S., R. 32E., Sec. 12, SE $\frac{1}{4}$   
Sec. 14, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$



T. 30S., R. 33E., Sec. 5, S½SE½  
 Sec. 6, Lots 1 through 3, 6, 15,  
 and 16, S½NE½  
 Sec. 10, NE½NE½  
 Sec. 14, PL in NW½NE½, N½NW½, SW½NW½  
 Sec. 29, Lot 1, NW½NW½  
 Sec. 30, Lots 9 and 10  
 Sec. 31, Lots 10 through 12, NE½NE½,  
 SW½NW½NE½, W½SW½NE½,  
 SE½SE½NE½, NE½NE½SW½,  
 NW½NW½SE½, NE½NE½SE½  
 T. 30S., R. 34E., Sec. 6, Lot 1  
 Sec. 20, SE½  
 Sec. 24, N½NE½NW½  
 Sec. 26, E½  
 Sec. 32, E½  
 T. 31S., R. 32E., Sec. 6, Lots 1, 3, and 4, S½NE½,  
 NE½SW½  
 Sec. 32, E½NE½, NE½SE½  
 T. 31S., R. 33E., Sec. 4, Lots 3 and 4, S½NW½, SW½  
 Sec. 26, N½NE½, SE½NE½, NE½NW½  
 T. 32S., R. 30E., Sec. 32, Lot 1  
 Sec. 34, Lot 2  
 T. 32S., R. 32E., Sec. 22, N½NE½, SE½NE½, N½NW½, SW½NW½,  
 W½SW½  
 T. 32S., R. 33E., Sec. 8, NE½SE½  
 T. 32S., R. 34E., Sec. 2, W½  
 T. 12N., R. 17W., Sec. 28, N½SE½  
 Sec. 34, Lot 1, NW½NE½, NW½SW½, NW½SE½  
 T. 12N., R. 15W., Sec. 32, Lot 6, SE½NE½  
 Sec. 34, SW½SW½  
 T. 11N., R. 18W., Sec. 35, SE½SE½ (.01 acres)  
 T. 11N., R. 17W., Sec. 28, SW½SW½, SE½SE½  
 Sec. 34, E½, W½W½  
 T. 11N., R. 15W., Sec. 2, S½NE½  
 Sec. 3, Lots 3 and 4, S½NW½  
 Sec. 4, MS 2400  
 T. 10N., R. 15W., Sec. 6, Lots 9 and 12

### Minerals

- Manage to reduce mining related hazards in the Havilah and Loraine areas.
- The entire MA will be open for mineral exploration and development except where development will affect the designated VRM Class II and III ratings for the PCT.



## V. SUPPORT NEEDS

### Livestock Grazing

#### M Category Allotments

Studhorse Canyon (0051) - develop 2 springs (to include troughs)  
- vegetation manipulation of 100 acres (especially to benefit wildlife)

Sand Canyon (0111) - develop 2 springs (to include troughs)  
- vegetation manipulation of 50 acres (especially to benefit wildlife)

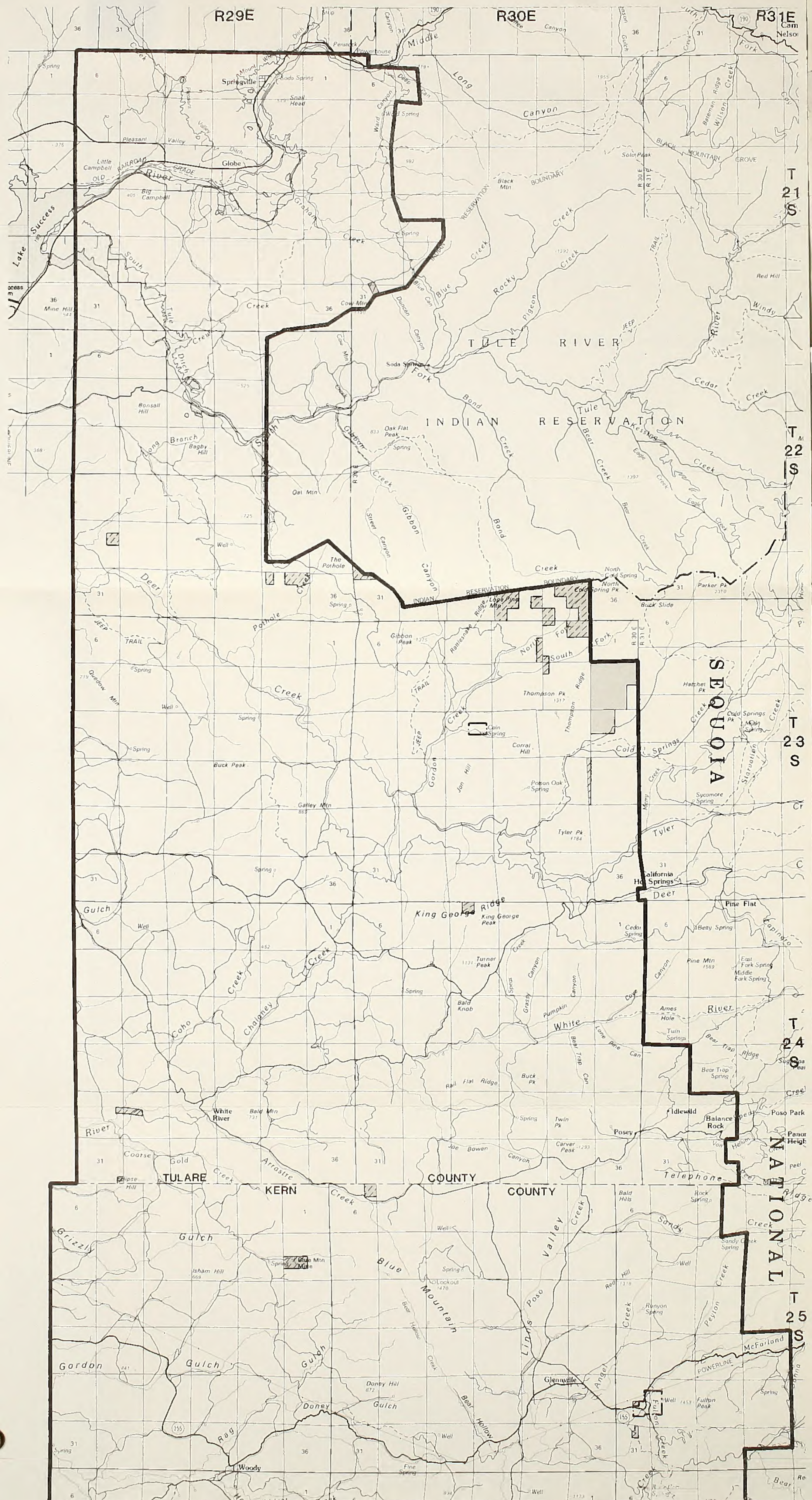
### Recreation Use

- recreational site plan for trail (PCT) and facilities
- develop water source(s) if feasible (PCT)
- cadastral survey support for PCT
- develop cooperative agreements with state, other federal, or volunteer groups to support PCT effort

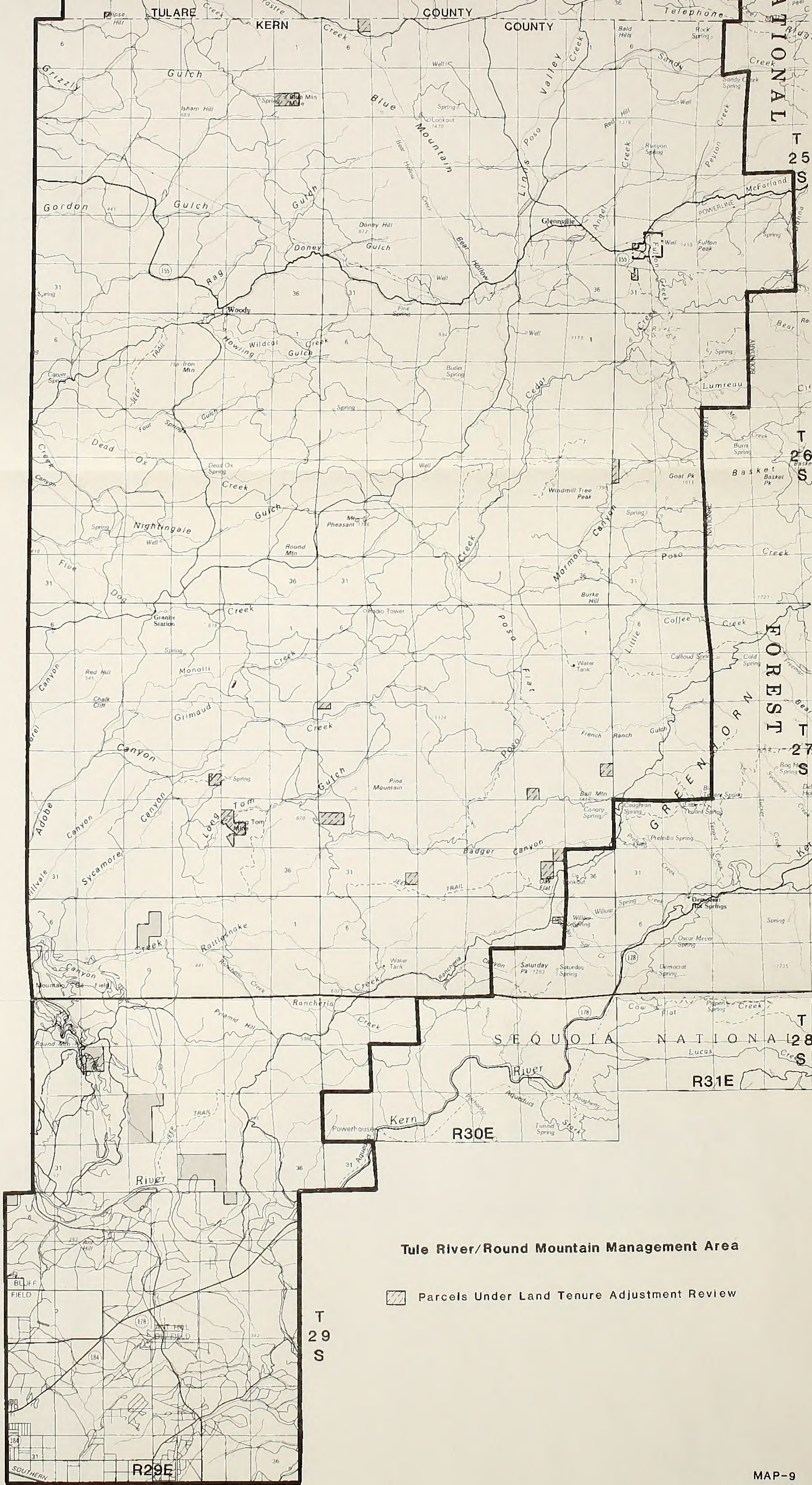
### Minerals

- reclamation program through compliance
- GEM assessment (administrative access needed)










**Tule River/Round Mountain Management Area**

 **Parcels Under Land Tenure Adjustment Review**

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S

R29E



## TULE RIVER/ROUND MOUNTAIN MANAGEMENT AREA (MA)

### I. INTRODUCTION

The Tule River/Round Mountain MA is located in Kern and Tulare counties approximately three miles northeast of Bakersfield, California. The MA includes all public land which is bordered by the Tule River Indian Reservation to the north, the Sequoia National Forest to the east, and the city of Bakersfield to the west. This area can be described as the rolling grassland foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

The basic management concern for this MA is its value for oil and gas exploration and development.

3,640 acres - Federal surface/subsurface  
62,280 acres - Federal subsurface only  
2,000 acres - Federal subsurface oil and gas only

### II. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The primary management emphasis is towards proper range administration and utilization of energy resources (e.g., oil and gas).

### III. RATIONALE

As the demand for energy related resources increases, more and more demand has been and will be placed on the public land as a viable source for these resources (e.g., oil and gas).

### IV. LAND USE DECISIONS

#### Livestock Grazing

#### C Category Allotments

Badger Creek (0009) - Manage for 37 livestock AUMs from 04/01 to 10/01.

Rio Bravo (0040) - Manage for 100 livestock AUMs season long.

Mountain Creek (0048) - Manage for 88 livestock AUMs season long.

Thompson Ridge (0052) - Manage for 63 livestock AUMs season long.

Round Mountain Road (0056) - Manage for 80 livestock AUMs from 02/28 to 11/01.

Rancheria (0071) - Manage for 49 livestock AUMs season long.

## Special Land and Resource Use Needs

- Some members of the public have expressed an interest in obtaining a shooting range in this MA. No specific locations have been identified, but when identification by the public occurs, an attempt will be made to accommodate the request.

## Land Tenure Adjustment

- Environmentally review the following parcels for land tenure adjustment (approximately 1,740 acres):

T. 21S., R. 30E., Secs. 30 and 31, Florence G Lode  
T. 22S., R. 29E., Sec. 14, Lots 1 through 4  
Sec. 30, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$   
Sec. 35, Lots 6, 7, 9  
T. 22S., R. 30E., Sec. 31, Lots 1, 6, and 7  
Sec. 34, Lots 2 and 3, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$   
Sec. 35, Lots 3, 4, and 6, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$   
T. 23S., R. 30E., Sec. 2, Lots 6, 7, and 9, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$   
Sec. 3, E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$   
Sec. 11, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$   
Sec. 23, Lots 2, 3, 6, and 7  
T. 24S., R. 29E., Secs. 29 and 30, Extension Lode  
Redfield Lode  
Sec. 31, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$   
T. 24S., R. 30E., Sec. 4, Lot 3  
T. 25S., R. 29E., Sec. 11, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$   
Sec. 12, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$   
T. 25S., R. 30E., Sec. 6, Lot 1  
T. 25S., R. 31E., Sec. 30, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$   
Sec. 31, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$   
T. 26S., R. 31E., Sec. 19, Lots 1 and 2  
T. 27S., R. 29E., Sec. 22, Lot 2  
Sec. 26, Lots 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6  
T. 27S., R. 30E., Sec. 18, Lot 5  
Sec. 23, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$   
Sec. 24, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$   
Sec. 30, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$   
Sec. 32, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$   
Sec. 35, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

## Minerals

- Encourage the development of oil and gas leases within legal and environmental constraints (e.g., cultural, RTE species).



## V. SUPPORT NEEDS

### Minerals

- GEM assessment (administrative access needs)
- develop plan of action for lessees to abandon extraneous roads, to direct the location and amount of road surfacing that may occur, to authorize pre-FLPMA powerlines, and develop an orderly system for authorizing energy related rights-of-way





Memorandum for the  
Director  
Re: [illegible]  
[illegible]

**APPENDIX**

January 15, 1964





**Rangeland Program Summary (RPS)**

**For The**

**South Sierra Foothills (SSF)**

**Planning Area**

**January 25, 1984**



Regional Program Summary (1971)

for the

South Pacific Region (1971)

Planning Year

January 15, 1971



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## I. RECORD OF DECISION

The grazing management decision outlined in Table 1 will be implemented in accordance with 43 CFR, Part 4100. It is a combination of several of the alternatives outlined in the SSF Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This decision was selected because it best meets the planning objectives for the planning area as well as the environmental, social, and economic needs.

No adjustments to current preference levels will be made initially. This current preference is labeled "initial preference" in Table 1. Monitoring, completed over a period of several years, will be used in conjunction with range surveys to determine the need (if any) for livestock number and season of use adjustments. However, this does not preclude adjustments by mutual agreement between individual grazing operators and the BLM at any time. Grazing operators will be encouraged to participate in monitoring studies and allotment evaluations.

Selective management category I allotments will be managed under mulch management or preference levels specified in Table 1 upon completion of an allotment management plan (AMP). Category M and C allotments will be managed under current BLM authorization procedures.

BLM has carried out an extensive program of public involvement in developing the SSF Management Framework Plan (MFP) and grazing EIS. We will continue to seek public participation. This program summary will be updated periodically to report progress on program implementation and achievement of rangeland management objectives.

Individuals or other interested groups not scheduled to receive allotment specific grazing decisions may protest specific portions of this RPS to the Bakersfield District Manager within 15 days of receipt. An appeal for a hearing before an administrative law judge may be filed with the Bakersfield District Manager within 30 days of the document becoming final. These procedures are outlined under Part VII, MANAGEMENT CHANGES.

*Rory E. Raschen, Assoc.*  
for Robert D. Rheiner, Jr.  
District Manager



## II. INTRODUCTION

### A. Previous Actions Relating to the Initial RPS

1. Draft SSF Grazing Management EIS: April 1983
2. Final SSF Grazing Management EIS: August 1983

These two documents provide detailed information on livestock grazing management alternatives, range conditions, analysis of management alternatives and mitigation measures. Copies of both documents are available from the Bakersfield District Office and the Caliente Resource Area, located in Bakersfield, CA.

### B. Purpose

The initial RPS will summarize the following:

1. current forage preference levels;
2. grazing management programs including range improvements;
3. estimated eventual preference or mulch levels;
4. the consultation process;
5. description of the relationship of the decision to the alternatives analyzed in the EIS;
6. the monitoring requirements.

The management action for each allotment outlined in this initial RPS is designed to achieve the land use objectives and goals set forth in the SSF MFP. Modifications to the management plans or the monitoring program may be suggested and determined through the consultation process. Such changes, if approved, will be identified in future land use planning amendments and RPS updates.

The purpose of the management decision is to achieve the long term natural resource capabilities of a given area while attempting to mitigate present and future adverse environmental and socio-economic impacts. The decision complies with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

### C. Public Participation

The public was informed of the preparations of the SSF DEIS by a media release/response letter mailed out on August 23, 1982. Federal Register notice was given the same day.

The DEIS on proposed livestock grazing management was filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and released to the public on April 26, 1982 with a comment period extending to June 13, 1982. Ten letters of comment were received on the DEIS. These letters, along with responses to them, were published in the FEIS which was filed with the EPA on Oct. 17, 1983. Three comments were received on the FEIS. None of these required any additional changes in the document.

## III. RANGELAND MANAGEMENT POLICY

A significant change in policy affecting the future management of public rangelands has recently been adopted by the Bureau of Land Management. This Grazing Management Policy entails a new approach called selective management. It is based on the identification of allotments or areas sharing similar



resource characteristics, management needs, and both resource and economic potential for improvement. Three selective management categories have been established: I (improve); M (maintain); and C (custodial). The criteria used for categorizing allotments are shown below:

#### Selective Management Category

Primary Criteria	I	M	C
Present Management	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Change not feasible
Production Potential	Below optimum potential	Near or at potential	Near potential
Resource Conflicts	Conflicts evident	Conflicts limited	Conflicts limited
Amount of Public Land	Greater than 60%	59% - 10%	Less than 10%
Economic Return	Positive of return	Possible return	Return not likely
<u>Optional Criteria</u>			
Range Condition	Poor - Fair	Satisfactory	Poor - Fair
Cooperation	High level of cooperation	Generally cooperative	Uncooperative

Allotments grouped into selective management categories would be managed as outlined:

#### Category I - Improve

- Active preference adjustment may be recommended in land use plan.
- Usually will involve mulch management (grazing is allowed until a specific residual mulch level is reached on key areas on an annual basis - see Table 1).
- Will have an AMP.
- Allotment utilization will be annually monitored.

#### Category M - Maintain

- Active preference will not be initially adjusted.
- Will only involve mulch management if the allotment is already managed under that system.
- May have an AMP.
- Allotment utilization will not be checked on an annual basis unless under mulch management.

#### Category C - Custodial

- Active preference will not be initially adjusted.
- Will not involve mulch management.
- Usually will not involve an AMP.
- Very limited utilization monitoring.



Each allotment in the SSF planning area has been evaluated and placed in a selective management category. Note that when the resource situation of an allotment changes following the implementation of management decisions, the allotment may be recategorized. Table 1 shows this allotment ranking.

#### IV. RANGELAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

##### A. Overview

The SSF planning area encompasses approximately 240,000 acres of public land, 198,113 acres of which are under grazing authorization. This land is in a scattered pattern and extends south from Sequoia National Park along the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the Tehachapi Mountains. Two counties, Kern and Tulare, are involved.

Livestock grazing has been an important source of income in the area since the 1850's and will remain so for the foreseeable future. Currently, there are 49 allotments with a total of 50 operators. Five of these are common allotments with eight operators running livestock on two or more allotments. All operators run cattle, usually cows and calves.

Approximately two thirds of the subject area is California (Mediterranean) annual range type that should be managed differently than the perennial range type. Annual plants are dependent upon yearly precipitation and temperature patterns. These patterns are extremely variable in California, and vegetation production can vary 20-fold from one year to the next. Therefore, where practical, (i.e., on I category allotments) the annual range type will be managed for residual mulch: a given amount of dry vegetation left after livestock are removed. The initial mulch levels are given in Table 1. After several years of monitoring, these levels of mulch may be revised or "fine tuned".



Table 1: Grazing Management Decision

Allotment Name	Number	Selective Management Category	Acres of Public Land	Initial Preference (AUMs)	Estimated Eventual Preference or Mulch Levels <sup>1/</sup> (% slope/lbs of mulch per acre or AUMs)	Season of Use
North Fork River	0017	I	5,493	448	0-25%/600, 26-50%/700, 51-75%/900, 76-100%/1000	SL <sup>2/</sup>
Freedom Hill Common	0074	I	4,000	596	0-25%/300, 26-50%/400, 51-75%/500, 76-100%/600	03/01 - 05/15
Walker Pass Common	0077	I	90,506	3,054	0-25%/300 <sup>3/</sup> , 26-50%/400, 51-75%/500, 76-100%/600	11/01 - 06/30
Airport Common	0078	I	3,150	571	0-25%/300, 26-50%/400, 51-75%/500, 76-100%/600	03/01 - 05/15
Short Canyon	0082	I	3,260	150	0-25%/300, 26-50%/400, 51-75%/500, 76-100%/600	02/01 - 04/30
Cholla Canyon	0086	I	4,572	1,825	0-25%/300, 26-50%/400, 51-75%/500, 76-100%/600	03/24 - 06/01 <sup>4/</sup>
Wagy Flat Common	0090	I	10,746	914	0-25%/400, 26-50%/500, 51-75%/600, 76-100%/700	03/01 - 08/31
Red Mountain	0117	I	8,840	309	0-25%/500, 26-50%/600, 51-75%/700, 76-100%/800	03/01 - 10/30
Scobie	0118	I	6,890	182	252	06/01 - 11/15
Case Mountain	0014	M	2,031	170	136	SL
Mankins Creek	0033	M	476	80	108	SL
Horn Mountain	0036	M	1,483	99	99	SL
Studhorse Canyon	0051	M	1,180	197	197	03/01-05/30
Kelso Peak	0075	M	3,020	593	93	02/01 -05/15
Smith Canyon	0080	M	5,088	80	224	SL
Lynch Canyon	0083	M	1,040	65	115	03/01 - 04/30
Cyrus Canyon	0084	M	2,270	230	117	SL
Cooks Peak	0085	M	3,025	217	328	03/01 - 05/15



Table 1 (cont.): Grazing Management Decision

Name	Allotment	Number	Selective Management Category	Acres of Public Land	Initial Preference (AUMs)	Estimated Eventual Preference or Mulch Levels <sup>1/</sup> (% slope/lbs of mulch per acre or AUMs)	Season of Use
Havilah Common	0087		M	4,160	371	254	07/01 - 02/28
Comb Rocks	0094		M	399	100	100	10/01 - 06/30
Burnt Point	0102		M	1,184	79	103	SL
Washburn Cove	0104		M	710	118	100	03/01 - 09/30
Sand Canyon	0111		M	2,702	365	287	SL
Blossom Peak	0005		C	80	7	7	03/01 - 06/01
Badger Creek	0009		C	160	37	37	04/01 - 10/01
Live Oak Pass	0012		C	280	70	70	06/01 - 09/30
Rancheria Creek	0023		C	140	63	25	04/01 - 10/01
Bear Creek	0024		C	452	10	10	SL
Comb Rocks	0034		C	230	39	39	SL
Rio Bravo	0040		C	401	100	80	SL
Goldpan Canyon	0045		C	440	74	10	SL
Rankin Ranch	0047		C	2,650	442	252	SL
Mountain Creek	0048		C	264	88	88	SL
Sand Canyon	0049		C	678	113	85	SL
Thompson Ridge	0052		C	1,250	63	63	SL
Round Mountain Road	0056		C	480	80	64	02/28 - 11/01
Loco Bill Canyon	0059		C	1,040	134	45	04/01 - 10/01



Table 1 (cont.): Grazing Management Decision

Allotment Name	Allotment Number	Selective Management Category	Acres of Public Land	Initial Preference (AUMs)	Estimated Eventual Preference or Mulch Levels <sup>1/</sup> (% slope/lbs of mulch per acre or AUMs)	Season of Use
Oak Grove	0061	C	2,832	237	62	04/01 - 09/30
Wagonshed Creek	0066	C	240	22	22	SL
Rancheria	0071	C	194	49	49	SL
Sacatar Meadows	0076	C	6,085	96	55	03/01 - 10/31
Faye Canyon	0079	C	527	64	7	03/01 - 04/30
Nellie's Nipple	0081	C	4,920	1,104	44	03/15 - 10/14
Bodfish	0089	C	280	14	14	03/01 - 09/30
Progress Gulch	0095	C	480	80	80	03/01 - 06/30
Milk Ranch Peak	0103	C	1,980	132	26	03/01 - 09/30
John's Peak	0113	C	960	160	46	SL
Bald Eagle Peak	0119	C	2,400	168	55	07/01 - 02/28
Spanish Needle Creek	0120	C	3,160	40	15	03/01 - 04/30

<sup>1/</sup>No adjustment in initial preference levels will be made until monitoring studies verify the need for adjustment.

<sup>2/</sup>SL = Season Long

<sup>3/</sup>These allotments have both annual and perennial forage plants. These allotments are classified as annual/perennial allotments, therefore, both eventual mulch levels and preference AUMs are displayed.

<sup>4/</sup>The grazing season can start earlier if the Area Manager deems that the range is ready to be grazed.



Table 2: Summation of Decision by  
Management Category

Selective Management Category	Number in each Category	Acres of P.L.	Initial Preference (AUMs)	Estimated Eventual Preference (AUM) <u>1/</u>
I	9	137,457	8,049	1,748
M	14	28,768	2,764	2,265
C	26	32,603	3,486	1,318
Total	49	198,828	14,299	5,331

1/ Eventual preference on allotments to be managed for mulch is not included.

#### B. Determination of the Estimated Eventual Preference or Mulch Levels

The I category allotments in the annual range type were assigned given amounts of residual mulch in Table 1. These amounts of mulch will meet the land use goals as identified in the SSF MFP.

Existing occular reconnaissance forage surveys were used as the source for estimated eventual preference on the perennial M and C category allotments. No adjustment in preference will be made until monitoring data verifies that the adjustment is needed.

#### C. Allotment Management Plans (AMP)

All nine I category allotments will be managed under an AMP. Two existing AMPs, Wagy Flat and Cholla Canyon, will be revised to incorporate the managing for mulch concept.

#### D. Monitoring

##### 1. Short Term

##### a. Annual Areas

The Area Manager and grazing operator will select the specific monitoring study locations within each individual allotment. The monitoring studies will be used to determine the amount of residual mulch.

##### b. Perennial Areas

Key perennial forage species will be monitored to measure utilization.



## 2. Long Term

Monitoring will be established to:

- a. assess the condition of important wildlife habitat areas;
- b. document results of prescribed burns, and grazing effects on critical RT&E plant or animal habitat, critical water quality or watershed problem areas, etc. The studies would be established only on those areas determined to have conflicts with or receive significant use from livestock as identified in the MFP;
- c. document rangesites;
- d. document climate, as reported by the U.S. Weather Bureau or BLM collection sites.

### E. Standard Operating Procedures

1. BLM will conduct intensive cultural resource inventories (Class III) within the area(s) of potential project impact in accordance with the stipulations of the Rangeland Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement (RPMOA) between the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, BLM, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, dated January 14, 1980. Appropriate local Native Americans will be consulted, as required by the

"Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), pertaining to Bureau of Land Management, California, Policy for Native American Concerns and Cultural Resource Management," among the Native American Heritage Commission, the California State Historic Preservation Officer, and the BLM, California, dated March 4, 1980.

Projects will be planned to avoid cultural resource sites where possible. Where avoidance is not possible, procedures developed in the RPMOA will be followed, and consultation with appropriate local Native Americans will be made in accordance with the MOU.

2. Projects proposed adjacent or within the habitat of any federally listed threatened or endangered species will be analyzed to determine if the project may affect the species. If it is determined that the project may affect the listed species, formal consultation procedures will be initiated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) as required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Similar consideration will be afforded Federal candidate species except that consultation with the FWS will be on an informal basis. It is the Bureau's policy to protect, conserve, and manage for federally listed, state listed, or candidate species.

3. A visual resource contrast rating will be conducted for all construction sites (BLM Visual Resource Policy Manual 8400). Projects that would affect visual resources will be modified by design or relocation if necessary to comply with visual resource objectives.

4. Wilderness Study Areas will be regulated so as not to impair the suitability of these areas for preservation as wilderness. Management of these areas will be in accordance with the Interim Management Policy (IMP) and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review, (December 12, 1979, as amended).



5. Grazing management activity will also comply with the Clean Air Act (as amended) and public lands in the study area will be managed under the Class II designation. Lands under wilderness review will also be managed under Class II, as set forth in the IMP.

6. Grazing Management activity will comply with the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Clean Water Act of 1977. Allotment Management Plans will include Best Management Practices (BMP's) to reduce water quality pollution pursuant to BLM's 208 Water Quality Management Report. As a part of the monitoring program, these BMP's will be evaluated for their adequacy in reducing water pollution.

#### F. Mitigation Measures

Adverse Impact	Mitigation	Rationale for Decision
1. Overbrowsing of shrubs resulting in inadequate winter forage and thermal cover for deer.	Adjust livestock grazing to ensure utilization of shrubs does not exceed 50%.	This will increase shrub vigor and ensure browse availability to deer.
2. Use of wet meadows and some streams limits the use of these areas by deer.	Fence the wet meadows and streams important to deer.	This will ensure the availability of succulent forage and maintain the health of young deer.
3. Existing water sources have been denuded of vegetation.	In critical wildlife habitat, rehabilitate damaged water sources by fencing, seeding, etc.  Whenever possible, do not place salt and protein supplement near water developments. Determine the distance that these should be placed from water on a case-by-case basis.	This will return the productivity of water sources for a variety of wildlife species.
4. There is continued gullying and collapse of streambanks in allotments 0045, 0049, 0051, 0074, 0077, 0090, 0118, and 0120.	Structural measures such as check dams, rip-rapping and gabion streambank reinforcements should be installed. Where feasible, temporary fencing should be placed around these structures to protect them from cattle trampling.	This will stabilize the existing erosion and prevent further erosion at these sites.



Adverse Impact	Mitigation	Rationale for Decision
5. There is a decline in water quality and channel stability of streams due to cattle trailing along fence lines.	Where feasible, avoid fencing across streams. If this is unavoidable, cross at right angles to the streams. Fences which parallel streams should be located far enough from the riparian vegetation to prevent unnecessary impacts to the riparian zones.	This will minimize the impacts of fence lines on streams and riparian areas.
6. Recreation sites are being impacted due to livestock trampling on allotments 0017, 0090, 0095, 0102.	Exclude livestock from the recreation sites that are being impacted.	This will preserve the recreation sites.
7. Significant cultural resources are losing data as a result of uncontrolled livestock trampling, rubbing, and midden contamination.	Exclude livestock from specific cultural resource site locations where damage is occurring. Where livestock removal is not possible, mitigate impacts to significant cultural sites in accordance with stipulation 6 of the RPMOA and, where applicable, the Memorandum of Understanding among the BLM, Native American Heritage Commission and the SHPO.	Preservation of important cultural resource sites and site information is mandated by law.

#### G. Rangeland Improvement Projects

The project design guidelines are:

1. Livestock watering and handling facilities will be located in minimum of 1200 feet from riparian zones, water sources susceptible to trampling, meadows and sensitive species habitat, wherever feasible, to minimize impacts to other resources.
2. Fences will not be located on sites that are highly susceptible to soil erosion or within one quarter mile of sensitive species habitat, if feasible.
3. Existing fences on critical winter deer range will, if necessary, be modified to meet BLM fence standards for deer ranges. New fence developments on critical deer winter ranges will be designed to meet BLM fence standards for these animals.
4. Natural barriers will be utilized to provide livestock movement control whenever possible. This will minimize the necessity for new fence construction.



5. Material used for rangeland improvements will be of a blending color - harmonious to the surrounding background to protect visual quality where possible. Safety considerations, however, may require that some developments (e.g., a fence that endangers off-road vehicle operators) be a contrasting color.

6. All existing and proposed livestock watering facilities will be designed to adequately facilitate wildlife water needs.

7. Removal of vegetation and surface disturbances will be minimized when developing rangeland improvements, and surface rehabilitation measures will be applied.

8. Water sources that are susceptible to livestock trampling will be fenced.

9. Burning prescriptions will be written with these specific goals, objectives and constraints:

- a. The watershed will not be damaged by prescribed burning.
- b. Vegetation will be treated to create a mosaic pattern which leaves ample wildlife cover.
- c. Chaparral must be too decadent to provide significant forage for wildlife and livestock before it is subjected to prescribed burning unless other resource needs warrant treatment by fire.
- d. Natural barriers or existing lines will be used as fire lines whenever possible. When this is impossible, new firebreaks may be constructed, but their width will only be the minimum width to control the fire. They will be reseeded with native or naturalized species and waterbarred to prevent erosion after the burns.
- e. Weather will be carefully monitored before and during the burns to assure adherence to the prescription.
- f. Buffer strips will be established along both sides of streams to protect riparian vegetation. Similar strips, generally a minimum of 75 feet wide, will be left around sensitive plant species (BLM Manual 6740).

10. Rare, threatened, endangered, or sensitive species habitat, and cultural resources will be given appropriate consideration before any action(s) are taken (see Standard Operating Procedures). In areas where no inventory data are available and there is the potential for high resource conflicts, efforts will be made to gather the needed data before the proposed actions are initiated.

Table 3 lists the planned projects for the I and M category allotments. These projects provide for some or all of the following conditions to occur:

1. improved livestock grazing distribution;
2. stop the mixing of different operator's livestock;
3. increase the forage production over a period of time;
4. decrease water pollution and streambank degradation by providing alternate sources of livestock water.



Table 3:  
Rangeland Improvements

Name	Allotment Number	Mgt. Category	Fences (miles)	Spring Developm't	Ungulate Guzzlers	Cattle Guards	Vegetation Manipulation (Acres)
N. Fork River	0017	I	0	3	0	0	680
Freedom Hill Common	0074	I	0	0	1	0	0
Walker Pass Common	0077	I	11	4	0	0	2,000
Airport Common	0078	I	0	0	1	0	0
Short Canyon	0082	I	0	0	2	1	0
Cholla Canyon	0086	I	0	0	2	1	0
Wagy Flat Common	0090	I	3	2	0	2	500
Red Mountain	0117	I	0	2	0	0	400
Scobie	0118	I	0	2	0	0	500
Case Mountain	0014	M	0	2	0	0	800
Mankins Creek	0033	M	0	2	0	0	0
Horn Mountain	0036	M	0	2	0	0	700
Studhorse Canyon	0051	M	0	2	0	0	100
Kelso Peak	0075	M	0	0	2	0	0
Smith Canyon	0080	M	0	0	2	0	0
Lynch Canyon	0083	M	0	0	1	0	0
Cyrus Canyon	0084	M	0	0	1	0	0
Cooks Peak	0085	M	0	1	0	0	0



Table 3 (cont.):  
Rangeland Improvements

Name	Allotment Number	Mgt. Category	Fences (miles)	Spring Developm't	Ungulate Guzzlers	Cattle Guards	Vegetation Manipulation (Acres)
Havilah Common	0087	M	0	0	0	1	750
Comb Rocks	0094	M	0	1	0	0	0
Burnt Point	0102	M	0	0	1	0	80
Washburn Cove	0104	M	0	1	0	0	0
Sand Canyon	0111	M	0	2	0	0	50



## V. MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

The grazing management program outline in the previous sections was selected from the following alternatives.

### Alternative 1: Proposed Action (Present Management)

The proposed action represents the present livestock grazing management for the planning area. This alternative would allow for rangeland improvements as proposed by the livestock operator such as water developments and prescribed burns in chaparral.

Total grazing preference would remain at 14,299 AUMs, the initial preference. In most cases active use is much less than the total active preference. This is especially true on larger operations. Ranchers that use less than their total active preference may simply activate more of this preference on favorable forage years. Ranchers that use all their preference and still have extra forage can apply for temporary non-renewable grazing privileges.

Ranchers could develop springs, conduct prescribed burns, and do other types of range improvements. An environmental assessment of all new rangeland improvements would be necessary for all alternatives.

No new AMPs would be developed, and the two existing plans would not be modified except at the request of the rancher.

Nine allotments (137,457 acres) would be placed in the I category; 14 allotments (28,768 acres) would be placed in the M category; and 26 allotments (32,603 acres) would be placed in the C category. This alternative represents the traditional no action alternative.

### Alternative 2: Livestock Maximization

The object of this alternative is to achieve maximum livestock production within the constraints of sustained yield. Forage would be allocated by residual mulch, not AUMs, on the annual range type I category allotments. This alternative would allot the maximum amount of the yearly annual production (standing crop) to livestock. It would leave a minimum amount of residual mulch.

Perennial areas in I category allotments, as well as all areas in M and C category allotments will be managed for AUMs. Again a maximum amount of forage is allocated to livestock.

AMPs would be developed on all I category allotments which do not already have one. The existing AMPs would be modified and improved to accommodate mulch management.

Many rangeland improvements, including a maximum amount of vegetation manipulation of both chaparral and pinyon pine, are proposed.

The same allotments are proposed for the I, M, and C categories as in Alternative 1.



### Alternative 3: Resource Protection

This alternative would achieve optimum wildlife production while still allowing for limited livestock production. It would also favor other resource values.

Category I allotments on the annual range type would again be managed for mulch. More mulch would be left on the ground after grazing than in Alternative 2. Fewer AUMs would be allocated to livestock on the other allotments.

The same I, M, and C category allotments are proposed for this alternative as in Alternative 1.

AMPs would be necessary on the I category allotments to manage for mulch. Fewer rangeland improvements would be implemented than in Alternatives 1 and 2.

### Alternative 4: Balanced Resource Use

This alternative is intermediate between Alternative 2, Livestock Maximization and Alternative 3, Resource Protection. It allots as much forage as possible to livestock after giving due consideration to wildlife, watershed, aesthetics, and other resources.

Again, areas in the I category allotments in the annual range type would be managed for mulch. Forage on the other allotments would be allocated by AUMs.

The proposed allotments for the I, M, and C categories are the same as for Alternatives 1, 2, and 3. AMPs on the I category allotments would be necessary to manage for mulch.

Additional rangeland improvements, although not as many as in the livestock maximization alternative, would be necessary.

### Alternative 5: No Grazing

This alternative would eliminate all grazing on public land in the planning area. Livestock would be phased out over a five-year period. Thus, there would be no authorized livestock grazing by the end of 1988. No new rangeland improvements, except fences to exclude livestock, would be constructed; existing improvements would be removed if they do not have other multiple use values, such as water for wildlife.

Livestock grazing on public land would be considered trespass. Livestock trailing across public land would be permitted.

Many miles of fencing would be necessary. This fencing would be the responsibility of adjacent landowners in closed range areas, such as Tulare County, but it would be the responsibility of the BLM in open range areas, such as most of Kern County.



## VI. PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

### A. Administrative Action

1. Publication of the RPS for public review and comment.
2. Consultation with affected permittees, lessees, and other affected parties on the discrete actions proposed for each allotment.
3. Publication of an RPS update (if necessary) which will reflect changes deemed necessary due to consultation.
4. Publication of future RPS updates (as necessary) to keep the public informed about the SSF grazing management program.

### B. Grazing Management

The following sequence will be used in implementing the grazing management program for each allotment.

1. Develop and implement a monitoring program for selected allotments (all I category allotments and certain M and C category allotments in that order of priority).
2. Develop and proceed to implement AMPs for I category allotments. Put AMPs on M and C categories only if special circumstances warrant them.
3. Rangeland developments will be considered for allotments in this priority:  
  
Category I allotments - first  
Category M allotments - second  
Category C allotments - third
4. Category I allotments will be ranked for AMP implementation by using the following criteria:
  - a. revision of existing AMPs;
  - b. allotments with critical or conflicting resource needs;
  - c. AMPs to support other resource activity plans (e.g., Wildlife Habitat Management Plans, Watershed Management Plans, etc.);
  - d. allotments showing a benefit/cost ratio greater than one to one;
  - e. allotments requiring the fewest dollars, time, and manpower to be implemented as related to the potential for return;
  - f. willingness of the operator to contribute to accelerating the AMP implementation schedule.
5. Evaluation of monitoring studies data will be used to determine the need and magnitude to adjust allowable use or make other significant program or priority changes for a specific allotment.
6. BLM will continue to request public involvement as it refines its rangeland program and implements it.



## VII. MANAGEMENT CHANGES

### A. Initial Changes

The changes between present management and the program outlined in this RPS may be implemented either through mutual agreement or through a decision issued by the Area Manager. The agreement or decision would become effective on March 1 of the upcoming year following issuance and will contain:

1. the facts which form the basis for the change;
2. the proposed change (e.g., preference adjustment, season of use, etc);
3. the pertinent regulations which govern such a change contained in the 43 CFR;
4. the effective date of such change(s).

### B. Mutual Agreements

The Area Manager will first attempt to obtain an agreement between the operator and BLM as to the needed change(s). Such agreements are likely on many of the SSF allotments. Monitoring is not necessary before a mutual agreement is made.

### C. Specific Allotment Decisions

When mutual agreements are not possible to implement required management changes, a proposed decision will be issued to each affected grazing operator and other affected parties.

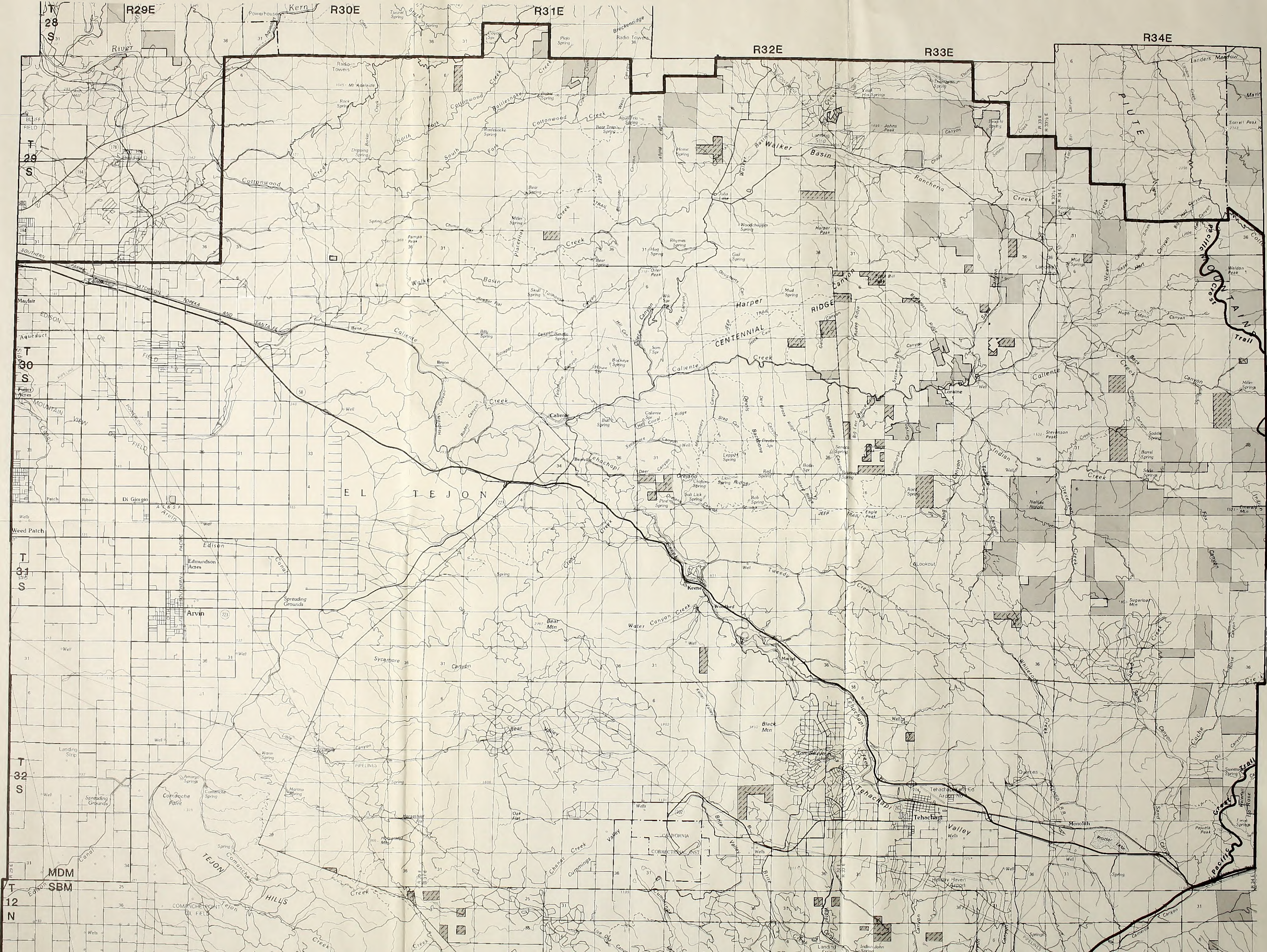
A 15-day period is provided after receipt of the proposed decision to protest the decision to the Area Manager. If no protest is received within this time frame, the proposed decision will become final without further notice. If a protest is received, the points of the protest will be considered by the Area Manager and a final decision issued.

A period of 30 days after receipt of the final decision is provided for filing an appeal with the Area Manager for the purpose of a hearing before an administrative law judge.

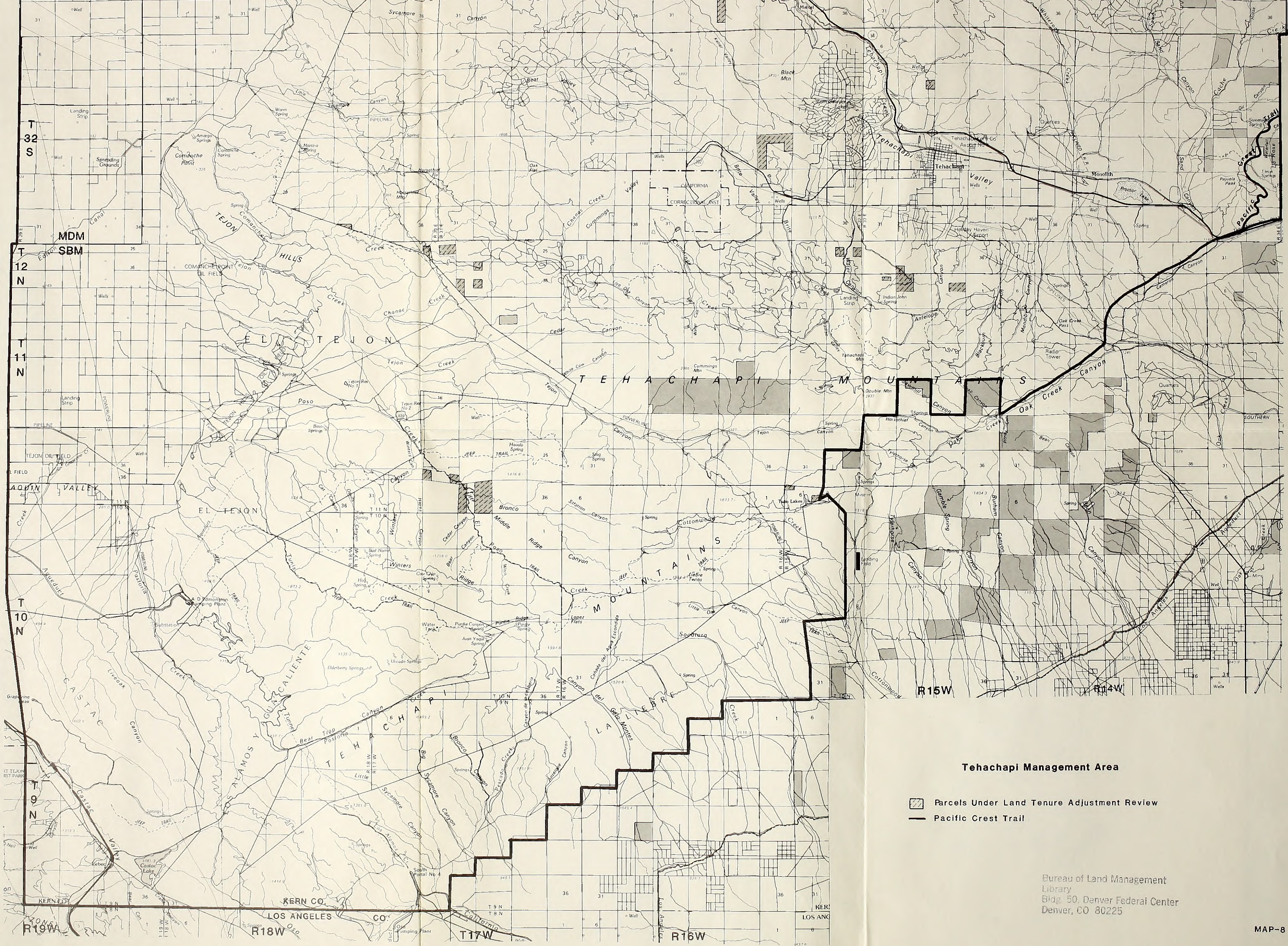
### D. Future Adjustments

All future management will be verified by ongoing monitoring studies as previously identified. This should promote a more flexible working relationship with grazing operators than existed in the past. This flexibility is a two-way street, however. The Area Manager will acknowledge when additional forage is available for livestock use and may allow for this use. Grazing operators should acknowledge when monitoring studies provide adequate evidence that stocking levels are in excess of the allotment's capability and accept the necessary change. This kind of cooperation will ensure long-term rangeland productivity.











**Tehachapi Management Area**

-  Parcels Under Land Tenure Adjustment Review
-  Pacific Crest Trail

Bureau of Land Management  
Library  
Bldg. 50, Denver Federal Center  
Denver, CO 80225



Bureau of Land Management  
Library  
Bldg. 50, Denver Federal Center  
Denver, CO 80225

U.S. DEPARTMENT  
BUREAU OF LAND

BORROWER

SF

85.35

.C2

L36

South Sierra Footh

plan: step-3, B

Caliente Resource

DATE  
LOANED

BORROWER

(Continued on reverse)

For



